

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATION OF TITLE X OF THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 1992

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today on behalf of Representative STEVE LARGENT and myself, we are introducing a bill that extends the authorization of Title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 which has been cleaning up the radioactive contamination created by the uranium and thorium milling operations. This program has been a valuable and generally successful endeavor, and has been instrumental in completing remediation at a number of uranium and thorium milling sites. This bill addresses the environmental hurdles and rising costs facing private industries in cleaning up those sites, five of which are in the State of Wyoming.

For the most part, the tailings were created in the process of obtaining supplies of uranium and thorium for the Manhattan Project, which produced America's first nuclear weapons. Title X sites encompass a range of areas which have combined tailings of both civilian and military responsibility. At those sites, the private owners remediate the contamination, then are reimbursed by the government for that share of the tailings which were generated as a result of Federal activities.

Without this legislation, DOE and the uranium/thorium industry may be unable to continue their cleanup of the remaining Title X sites. This bill is a responsible measure—and a positive one—which allows the Federal government to continue to clean up its environmental liabilities.

The main purpose of the bill is to extend authority for title X cleanup from 2002 to 2007 and provide for a staged reimbursement increase from \$6.25 per ton to \$10.00 per ton. The need for the increase in the mill tailings reimbursement rate and program extension stems from several factors. Congress has decreased annual discretionary appropriations while clean-up costs have increased due to groundwater and environmental standards. After Congress' adoption of the "Polluter Should Pay" principle in CERCLA, the Federal government has the same responsibility for environmental clean-up as does private industry.

This legislation would not require an increased spending authorization for uranium/thorium reimbursement for the Federal government's share of mill tailings clean-up costs. DOE has concluded that the requested increase in the per ton reimbursement rate from \$6.25 to \$10.00 would not exhaust the uranium tailings authorization of \$350,000,000 and therefore would not require an increase.

Representative LARGENT and I commend this legislation to my colleagues and encourage them to join us in cosponsoring it. It is our

hope that it will be considered expeditiously by the Commerce Committee.

CONGRATULATIONS FIRST GRADUATES OF THE NATIONAL LABOR COLLEGE

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the first National Labor College class of graduates.

The National Labor College is a correspondence school that offers bachelor of arts degrees in seven different disciplines all relating to labor and its practices. Students of this university are given credits for work and union experience as well as general class work. Students that are union members and full time workers pay a substantially lower tuition rate and work independently towards their degree. This program was established 2 years ago and has advanced the skills and knowledge of many working Americans by offering them an opportunity to receive higher education at a cost they can afford while still allowing them to remain a part of the workforce. While most of the students are from the United States, the participation is international.

As a strong advocate of education and its continuing growth and improvement in our society today, I have fought to ensure that a quality education is accessible to the working class of Minnesota and America. Providing our work force with a solid, quality education is a crucial necessity in the continuation of the advancement of knowledge and skills. Today's workers and labor unions have a much greater challenge than in the past as they cope with the rapid change in the world of work and represent the most important factor in the progress of productivity, the workers.

The National Labor College aids in ensuring that the American world force is ready for the challenges of the new millennium. By providing education and support to our work force we can continue to successfully compete in the growing global economy and vastly expanding technological market. We must continue to support our work force and the National Labor College is a very important first step in doing so.

I'd like to submit, for my colleagues' review, an article from the Washington Times Sunday, July 25 issue, which highlights this program and the achievements of its graduates.

[From the Washington Times, July 25, 1999]
NATIONAL LABOR COLLEGE PITCHES TENT FOR
ITS FIRST GRADUATES

88 PERSONS EARN 4-YEAR DEGREES BY MAIL, E-MAIL

(By Gerald Mizejewski)

At first glance it looked like any other college commencement, with dark gowns, tassels and gushing parents snapping photographs.

But then the speakers starting saying things like, "I say to you all, solidarity, solidarity forever," and "May God bless the labor movement."

Under a tent on a stretch of open grass in Silver Spring, the National Labor College graduate its first class yesterday. Eighty-eight men and women from as far away as California and Panama took home four-year bachelor's degrees in subjects such as union governance and administration.

"That's what this is all about. Decent, honest pay for a hard day's work," said Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening, a Democrat, who was honored with a doctor of humane letters in labor studies.

Mr. Glendening, who addressed the crowd as "brothers and sisters," enjoy strong labor support during his two campaigns for governor. The Maryland General Assembly approved \$650,000 this year for the school—its first public funds—but less than the \$2 million included in Mr. Glendening's budget proposal.

The idea of creating a national college for union members had been around since 1899, when American Federation of Labor President Samuel Gompers proposed the University of the Federation of Labor in Baltimore. The school never materialized.

The National Labor College, a correspondence school accredited by the state of Maryland, offers bachelor of arts degrees in seven disciplines: labor studies; labor education; organizational dynamics and growth; political economies of labor; union governance and administration; labor history; and labor safety and health.

It was established two years ago by the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions as a way to make higher education available to working Americans. The program enables workers to advance their skills as leaders in the labor movement.

Students are given credit—up to 90 quarter hours—for their work and union experience over the years. The college requires 180 quarter hours of credit for graduation.

"Most people are genuinely surprised to find out how much their life experience is worth," said Sue Schurman, president of the Labor College.

The Labor College replaces Antioch University, a degree program operated through the George Meany Center for Labor Studies in Silver Spring.

Average tuition is \$8,000 a year, and \$3,000 for union members, who make up the majority of the college's student body.

While enrolled, participants must take humanities, English, social science, mathematics and science, in addition to electives. They are required to complete at least eight labor courses and a senior research project.

Participants typically spend one to two weeks each year on campus at the George Meany Center and work independently the rest of the time, completing reading assignments, writing research papers and communicating with instructors by phone, mail and e-mail.

Alex Bell, 78, a former Maryland state delegate, is the oldest graduate. An active member of the Plumbers Local 5 in the District, Mr. Bell is on the executive board and financial board of his union and also serves as a business agent.

"That college is the greatest place in the world," he said.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Yesterday's graduates, ranging in age from 29 to 78, represented 25 states and 33 unions. Most of them are the first in their families to earn a degree.

About 400 union members and leaders from throughout the country are participating in the college degree program, which has recently expanded to offer a master's degree.

Kevin P. O'Sullivan, yesterday's student speaker, plans to earn his master's degree in public administration through the college. For Mr. O'Sullivan, the labor movement is integral to his family's history.

"My father, an Irish immigrant, worked seven days a week as an electrician, providing a better life for his family," said Mr. O'Sullivan.

"His example of solidarity while supporting a Teamsters strike for three months despite the pressures of providing for his wife and seven children will be with me longer than my disdain for oatmeal that I gained during the strike."

DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT- MENT TO PRODUCTS OF PEOP- LE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am reluctantly voting today to affirm the Administration's renewal of Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status with the People's Republic of China (PRC) for the coming year. At the same time, I also want to reaffirm my current opposition to the extension of permanent NTR status to China. I strongly believe the United States should preserve the annual option of suspending NTR open as a potential instrument of policy, and trust China is aware that it continues to edge ever closer to a suspension of its NTR status with the United States.

I hold grave reservations over current U.S.-China relations. Among other things, the PRC's theft of U.S. nuclear and computer technology secrets, its continued opposition to U.S. policies abroad, and its long-term history of human rights violations all raise serious concerns. I have already taken public steps this session to toughen U.S. policy on the PRC by speaking out against religious persecution in China on the House floor, voting to limit satellite exports to China, voting to prohibit military-to-military exchanges with the People's Liberation Army, and implementing the recommendations of the Cox Report.

Nevertheless, as someone who represents a state where the agricultural sector is vitally important to both our culture and our economy, I believe the expansion of markets within China for agricultural products is crucial. Our farmers face a crisis today. Commodity prices are at extraordinarily low levels as demand continues to lag behind supply worldwide. At the same time, Congress is encouraging our farmers to rely more and more on market forces, and less and less on old-style bureaucratic programs. A huge part of these market forces is dependent upon growth in our farm exports. The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that 37 percent of the growth in our nation's farm exports could go to China by 2003. In other words, to restrict trade by sus-

pending China's NTR status would take a key market away from our struggling farmers at an unfortunate time, likely driving agriculture prices even lower.

In recent months, the U.S. Trade Representative has negotiated conditional agreements with China that would, among other things, dramatically reduce Chinese tariffs on U.S. cheese and ice cream exports. If NTR fails, these agreements are finished—giving Wisconsin farmers bad news at a time when bad news seems to be the order of the day.

This has been a tough decision, one I have weighed for some time. There are valid and persuasive arguments on both sides of the NTR debate, and I can truly say this has been one of the most difficult issues I have faced since taking office. In the end, however, the issue's potential impact on agriculture tipped the scales in favor of renewing China's NTR status for another year.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support for the Department of Defense Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2000. This legislation reaffirms Congress' commitment to a strong national defense and takes a positive step toward restoring our hollowed-out military. This legislation provides funding for key defense projects such as the LPD-17 and the Navy Information Technology Center.

By providing full funding for the LPD-17, the United States Navy receives a highly reliable, warfare capable ship and the most survivable amphibious ship ever put to sea. The LPD-17 design incorporates state-of-the-art self-defense capabilities, C4I, and reduced signature technologies advances that will prove priceless over its 40-year service life. LPD-17 also incorporates the latest quality of life standards for our Sailors and Marines.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the Chairman for his foresight in placing additional funding above the President's request into the DIMHRS account for the Navy Information Technology Center in New Orleans. Funding for the Navy Information Technology Center will ensure continued development of the information software needed to handle personnel and pay management files for the Navy and other armed services. By investing in these improvements now, the Office of Management and Budget estimates the Navy will be able to save billions of dollars in the future. These savings will result in additional funding to rebuild our national defense.

The legislation also includes the first significant increase in defense spending in 14 years, and will also boost pay for the nation's 1.4 million active-duty service men and women by 4.8 percent.

Once again, I would like to thank the Chairman for crafting an excellent bill, and I look

forward to continuing to work with him and his staff.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF PAUL J. HANAK ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY, POLICE FORCE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Paul J. Hanak on twenty-nine years of dedicated service to the citizens of Union City, New Jersey, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the force.

In August 1970, Mr. Hanak joined the Union City Police Force as a Patrol Officer where his hard work and dedication was quickly recognized and rewarded. By 1974, Mr. Hanak started his rise through the ranks when he was promoted to Sergeant. In the following years, he rose to Lieutenant in 1979, Captain in 1983, Deputy Chief in 1987, and finally Chief of the Union City Police Force in 1997.

Through the years, Chief Hanak was revered by his fellow officers as being responsive to their needs and compassionate about their daily stresses. He always set time aside to give advice and counsel. In fact, it was his mission statement which set the stage for the entire force: "Compassion, Proficiency and Respect." It is this type of work ethic, of motivation, that epitomized Chief Hanak's career.

Always committed to his sense of civic responsibility, Chief Hanak continued to flourish and grow in the criminal justice field outside the bounds of the police force. Receiving a Law Degree from Seton Hall University, Chief Hanak passed the New Jersey State Bar in 1971. In addition, he has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Jersey City State College, teaching courses on the Criminal Justice System.

I am happy to congratulate Chief Paul Hanak for his long and distinguished career; for his dedication and service to the Union City Police Force; and for his compassion for and understanding of his fellow officers and all the people of Union City. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing this exceptional man a happy and healthy retirement.

THOMAS AND BRIDGES FAMILIES
CELEBRATE 28TH REUNION IN
CADIZ, TRIG COUNTY, KENTUCKY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Thomas and Bridges families, who will come together for their 28th reunion in Cadiz, Trig County, Kentucky this August.

Drury Bridges brought his family to Kentucky from North Carolina in 1804. James Thomas, Sr., also a North Carolinian, came two years later. Both patriarchs had taken part in the struggle for independence during the Revolutionary War, but they had never met until they acquired land grants near each other

in a portion of Christian County that in 1820 would become Trigg County.

With the passing of time, three of the Bridges children married three of the Thomas children, the beginning of family connections that remain strong today.

During the almost 200 years since these families chose Trigg County as their home, they and their descendants have made invaluable contributions to the cultural, religious, educational and political life of the county.

It is my honor to represent these distinguished families in the Congress of the United States and I am proud to introduce them to my colleagues in the House of Representatives and recognize their patriotism and civic leadership.

IN HONOR OF MS. MARGARET
BLAKE ROACH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to mark the loss of a remarkable leader in South Florida. Margaret Blake Roach, an educator and pioneer in civil rights, passed away on July 16, 1999, among her loving family in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The Broward County community is no doubt in mourning for the loss of this great leader, mentor, and role model.

Margaret Roach served as a beacon of wisdom and fairness for many who suffered from social injustice. For more than thirty years, Margaret was at the forefront of the civil rights movement. She was the founder and president emeritus of the Urban League of Broward County and a founding member of the Broward/South Palm Beach region of the National Conference for Community and Justice. She was guided by the simple principle of access to opportunity for all, and she shared that principle with everyone she came in contact.

In addition, Margaret Roach realized the need and the importance to attend to the community's future by caring for the local children. She worked as an administrator in Broward County Schools for almost 24 years and was trustee and former chairperson of the Board of Trustees at Broward Community College. Margaret nurtured her students with an uncommon commitment to education and an education that went far beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic. She taught her students by example and brought both her time and leadership to various civic establishments such as the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and the Cleveland Clinic.

The State of Florida will truly miss Margaret Roach for both her vision and her commitment to serving others. I am confident that despite the sadness of her loss, the Broward community will celebrate her exceptional life through the organizations to which she dedicated both her time and compassion. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues to join me as we honor this great American who has left such a memorable impression on the lives of so many people. I am grateful to Margaret Roach for her years of dedicated service to humanity and mourn her loss.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARGARET KELLY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, recently the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers Local #28 took time out to honor a special person and friend, Margaret Kelly.

Margaret Kelly, through a long career in Saint Paul Public Schools, is committed to education and has invested in building solid representation for teachers. Politically active, her hard work has resulted in a successful educational environment and an effective teacher's labor union. Her sister and perhaps best supporter, Mary Kelly, has also been active.

The roots of this local union go back many years and in line 1940's when there was labor strife, a young Margaret Kelly was in the middle of it. Today relations are more harmonious, but the challenges to Saint Paul Federation of Teachers #28 President Ian Keith are just as great. Fortunately, he has Margaret Kelly to rely upon. As a Member of Congress, I have been proud and well served with Margaret and Mary Kelly's counsel as well.

Congratulations to Margaret Kelly. The following brief article from the July 21 Union Advocate touches upon Margaret's role and the feelings of her fellow teacher's union members.

[From the Union Advocate, July 21, 1999]
LABOR MOVEMENT PIONEERS GATHER TO
CELEBRATE, REFLECT

Some of the key leaders who helped build the St. Paul Federation of Teachers gathered July 13 to celebrate the contributions of one of their own—Margaret Kelly (left), a member of the local for more than 50 years, an officer and leader.

Ian Keith, president of the St. Paul Federation of Teachers, Local 28, presented her with the American Federation of Teachers "Living the Legacy" Award.

"A lot of things changed in the union, but Margaret was always there," said Tom Dosch. "She really represented the union and unionism. She certainly was a guiding force the early years I was involved."

Although she's been retired, Kelly is still remembered fondly by many of her former students, said Don Sorenson, another colleague. "Margaret not only did a great job in the union, she also was a great teacher." Kelly taught junior high English and Social Studies.

Kelly said she believed her greatest accomplishment was successfully working for state legislation to establish retiree health benefits for teachers.

Among those honoring Kelly were family members and fellow teachers, some of whom were involved in the historic St. Paul teachers strike of 1946—the first organized teachers strike in the United States. Others have been leaders of the union in the years since.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. RILEY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Mike Riley, who is re-

tiring after a 45-year career with the Teamsters Union. In his modest way, Mike has said that working as a union organizer is "one of the few things I was good at that I liked." I don't know about his other pursuits, but I can say without hesitation that Mike is one of the best union representatives that I have ever known.

Mike's union career began as an accident. He was working as a truck driver in San Francisco, recently back from a tour of military duty in Korea, when he attended a union meeting. The big issue that day was whether members should support an increase in dues from \$3 to \$3.50 per month. Mike thought the request was justified, especially since the union had recently negotiated a \$2.50 per week increase for Mike and his co-workers.

As it turned out, he was in the minority. From that point, Mike started to speak in favor of the union at the monthly meetings. His efforts caught the attention of union organizers, who asked him to join their ranks. He accepted the offer, and has never looked back.

Mike has held many prominent positions with the Teamsters, including International Union Representatives, International Vice President, Chairman of the Western Conference of Teamsters and President of Teamsters Joint Council 42, the position he holds today. Mike estimates he has helped negotiate thousands of contracts and settle tens of thousands of grievances through the years.

Mike counts among his proudest achievements obtaining early retirement—with full benefits—for eligible union members and helping to establish the Teamsters Miscellaneous Health and Welfare Plan, which provides medical, dental and vision benefits to an additional 25,000 Teamsters and their families.

Although he was dedicated to the union, Mike did make room in his schedule to serve as member of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles. As the father of three sons (and three daughters), Mike knows better than most how important it is for a young man to have an adult male figure in his life. One of his sons is currently serving as a Big Brother.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mike Riley, whose sense of compassion, commitment to economic justice and devotion to his family is an inspiration to us all. I am proud to be his friend.

TIME TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM
WAGE: THERE IS A HIGH COST
FOR LOW WAGES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, with 126 of our distinguished colleagues, I am a cosponsor of the bill, H.R. 325, which was introduced by our colleagues Congressman DAVID BONIOR and Democratic Leader RICHARD A. GEPHARDT. Our legislation would raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$5.65 on September 1, 1999, and from \$5.65 to \$6.15 on September 1, 2000. An identical bill has been introduced in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the present minimum wage is a poverty wage. A single mother, with two children, working at minimum wage earns thousands of dollars less than the poverty level.

You just cannot raise a family on \$5.15 an hour. As Barbara Ehrenreich said in an essay entitled "The High Cost of Low Wages" which appeared in *America @ Work*: "Even in an economy celebrating unequaled prosperity, a person can work hard, full-time or even more, and not make enough to live on, at least if she intends to live indoors."

It is essential that we increase the minimum wage, Mr. Speaker, in order to prevent further erosion of the purchasing power of low-wage workers. An increase in the minimum wage will serve as an important means for people to gain independence from government income support programs. It will boost worker morale and increase worker productivity.

Mr. Speaker, we can afford to increase the minimum wage—and now is the time to do it. Our nation has now experienced the longest peacetime expansion in our country's history. The unemployment rate has fallen to 4.4%, the lowest rate in a generation. Inflation remains extremely low. Based on recent studies, there would be no adverse effects on employment or job opportunities with the implementation of the proposed increases in the minimum wage. The 1996–1997 increase of the minimum wage serves as an example of the effect of such an increase upon our economy. Two months after the 1997 increase the national unemployment rate actually dropped one full percentage point. Raising the minimum wage is good for the economy. The extra money gets spent at the grocery store, at the hardware store, and throughout the local community.

Mr. Speaker, approximately, ten to twelve million Americans will benefit from this legislation. Minimum wage workers are a significant part of our workforce. Over half of these workers are women. Almost three-fourths are adults. Half of those who will benefit from this bill work full-time, and 80% of them work over twenty hours per week. They are providers of child care. They are teachers' aides. They are single heads of households with children. These are hard-working people who deserve a fair living wage.

Barbara Ehrenreich, the author of over a dozen books on politics and society, authored a particularly good essay on the consequences of the low wages and the implications of increasing the minimum wage—"The High Cost of Low Wages"—which appeared in the *AFL-CIO publication America @ Work*. Mr. Speaker, her article is particularly insightful. I urge my colleagues to read Ms. Ehrenreich's article, and I urge them to support the adoption of H.R. 325.

THE HIGH COST OF LOW WAGES

Last summer I undertook an unusual journalistic experiment: I set out to see whether it is possible to live on the kind of wages available to low-skilled workers. I structured my experiment around a few rules: I had to find the cheapest apartment and best-paying job I could, and I had to do my best to hold it—no sneaking off to read novels in the ladies room or agitating for a Union.

So, in early June, I moved out of my home near Key West and into a \$500 efficiency apartment about a 45-minute drive from town. I would have preferred the trailer park right on the edge of town, but they wanted over \$600 a month for a one-person trailer.

Finding a job turned out to be a little harder than I'd expected, given all the help-wanted signs in town. Finally at one of the big corporate discount hotels where I'd applied for a housekeeping job, I was told they

needed a waitress in the associated "family restaurant."

The pay was only \$2.43 an hour, but I figured with tips, I would do far better than I would have at the supermarket which was offering \$6 an hour and change.

I was wrong. Business was slow, and tips averaged 10% or less, even for the more experienced "girls." I was curious as to how my fellow workers managed to pay their rent. The immigrant dishwashers (from Haiti and the Czech Republic) mostly lived in dormitory-type situations or severely overcrowded apartments. As for the servers, some were technically homeless. They just didn't think of themselves that way because they had cars or vans to sleep in. I was shocked to find that a few were sharing motel rooms costing \$40 to \$60 a night, and I'm talking about middle-aged women, not kids. When I naively suggested to one coworker that she could save a lot of money by getting an apartment, she pointed out that the initial expense—a month's rent in advance and security deposit—was way out of her reach.

Meanwhile, my own financial situation was declining perilously. The money I saved on rent was being burned up as gas for my commuting. I was spending too much on fast food. I began to realize it's actually more expensive to be poor than middle class: You pay more for food, especially in convenience stores, you pay to get checks cashed; and you can end up paying ridiculous prices for shelter.

I decided to redouble my efforts to survive. First, I got a waitressing job at a higher-volume restaurant where my pay averaged about \$7.50 an hour. Then I moved out of my apartment and into the trailer park, calculating that, without the commute, I'd be able to handle an additional job. For a total of three days altogether, I did work two jobs—including a hotel housekeeping job I finally landed.

At the end of the month, I had to admit defeat. I had earned less than I spent, and the only things I spent money on were food, gas and rent. If I had had children to care for and support—like many of the women now coming off welfare—I wouldn't have lasted a week.

But my experiment did succeed in showing that, even in an economy celebrating unequaled prosperity, a person can work hard, full-time or even more, and not make enough to live on, at least if she intends to live indoors. I left thinking that if this were my real life, I would become an agitator in no time at all, or at least a serious nuisance.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN SELF-REFERRAL IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the physician self-referral law has successfully prevented billions of dollars worth of business deals that would have abused patients through overtesting and provision of unnecessary services and wasted Medicare funds. That's why the legislation that is sponsored by Representative BILL THOMAS—which effectively guts the statute by eliminating the Federal Government's authority to regulate providers' compensation relationships—should be summarily rejected.

Instead, I hope that my colleagues will take a careful look at the legislation that I am intro-

ducing, which makes certain responsible changes in the law to streamline and simplify it.

The principal provision in the Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 creates a fair market value exception, or safe harbor, for providers who enter into compensation relationships with entities to which they refer Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries for health services. All that is required under the fair-market value exception is that providers set down the terms of their arrangement in writing, that it is for a specified period of time and is signed by all parties; that it is not based on the volume or value of referrals; and that rates paid are commercially reasonable.

What honest doctor can't meet those standards?

The bill that I am introducing also makes changes in the "direct supervision" requirement that governs the in-office ancillary services safe harbor; substantially narrows financial relationship reporting requirements for providers, who would only have to produce accounts of their financial relationships and those of immediate family members upon audit; modifies the law's "direct supervision" requirement for in-office ancillary services; expands the prepared plan exception to include Medicare and Medicaid coordinated capitated plans; creates an exception for areas in which the HHS Secretary finds there are no alternative providers; exempts ambulatory surgical centers and hospices; alters the definition of a group practice; and requires HCFA to issue advisory opinions within 60 days of receiving a request.

If enacted, these changes would improve the law without undermining it—as the Thomas bill clearly would. Policymakers know that the self-referral law is uniquely effective in controlling overutilization, and that it works well precisely because providers scrub their arrangements before finalizing contracts. In effect, the self-referral law is self-enforcing.

To further substantiate that point, at a May 13 Ways & Means Health Subcommittee hearing on the physician self-referral law, the HHS Inspector General's chief counsel, D. McCarty Thornton, testified that the phony joint ventures on the 1980's have decreased significantly. That is good news.

The result is that compliance with the law is standard practice in the health industry today. Even Columbia-HCA, which I have long criticized, now has a system in place that carefully screens financial relationships with physicians in order to stay in compliance with the law.

This demonstrates that even without final regulations, the law is effectively controlling overutilization in Medicare's fee-for-service program—which still comprises 82 percent of all enrollees. Absent the law's curbs, Medicare would be highly vulnerable to overutilization again. Indeed, in 1995, when Representative THOMAS introduced similar legislation, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the bill would cost Medicare \$400 million over 7 years.

It is particularly hypocritical that the American Medical Association is lobbying for repeal of the law's compensation provisions. Last time I checked, AMA's Code of Medical Ethics bars members from entering into self-referral arrangements.

The Health Care Financing Administration has promised to issue final regulations for the

physician self-referral law by next spring. At this juncture, it would be deeply irresponsible to enact legislation that effectively repeals the heart of the law—which is the Federal Government's ability to require fair-market value parameters for compensation arrangements between providers.

If the law is repealed, taxpayers will again be forced to foot the bill for billions of dollars in provision of unnecessary services. Enactment of the Thomas proposal would shorten Medicare's life and return us to the days of the 1980's, when physicians created sham joint ventures to which they steered their patients for unnecessary, expensive, and even painful tests.

I hope that we will not go down that road.

THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN SELF-REFERRAL
IMPROVEMENT ACT
BILL SUMMARY

The Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 introduced by Rep. Stark refines the self-referral laws in a number of ways. Below is a summary of the bill that highlights major provisions in current law and major changes that this legislation makes to those provisions.

Current law bans compensation between doctors and providers in certain designated health services areas. It is designed to provide a "bright line" in the law and to avoid requiring the government to investigate difficult "kickback" cases. The current law includes many complex exceptions to the total ban.

The Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 would replace most of the compensation exceptions with a single "Fair Market Value" test. It would maintain the exceptions to the ban for physician recruitment and de minimis gifts. Under the fair market value test, an agreement must be in writing, for a definite period of time, and not be dependent on the volume or value of referrals. The compensation in the contract must be a reasonable "fair market" rate.

Current law requires "direct supervision" by referring physicians of those providing designated health services to qualify for the in-office ancillary service exception.

The Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 would require general supervision which is a less stringent standard than current law, but it would require that generally the physician be on the premises.

Current law provides a general managed care exemption.

The Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 would clarify that the managed care exemption extends to Medicaid managed care plans and Medicare+Choice organizations.

Current law provides an exception from the law in instances where no alternative provider is available.

The Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 would change that exception so that the Secretary of Health and Human Services would determine whether an area is underserved and therefore needed such an exception.

Current law requires reporting of provider financial relationships and those of their immediate families, and institutes civil monetary penalties for failure to comply with such reporting requirements.

The Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 would repeal that reporting requirement and replace it with a requirement that physicians have records available for audit purposes. It would also abolish the civil monetary penalties that go along with the current financial relationship reporting requirement.

Current law provides a list of designated health services that are covered by the self-referral ban.

The Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 would remove eyeglasses and lenses from the list and would clarify that the law does not cover ambulatory surgical centers or hospices.

Current law requires HCFA to provide advisory opinions upon request, but has no deadline for their completion.

The Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 would require that advisory opinions be answered by HCFA within 60 days.

Current law forbids providers from providing DME and parenteral and enteral nutrients as part of the in-office ancillary exception.

The Medicare Physician Self-Referral Improvement Act of 1999 would eliminate the ban.

RPS, INC. RECOGNIZED IN
CONGRESS

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a company in my district, RPS, Inc., an FDX Company. This company has grown in less than 15 years to become the second largest small-package carrier in North America, and has established a reputation for efficient, affordable, and safe service.

RPS is a major employer and business operating in the southwest corner of Pennsylvania. Its headquarters have been located outside of Pittsburgh since the company was started in 1985 by President and CEO Daniel J. Sullivan. Since then, RPS has been one of the fastest growing companies in the transportation industry and currently employs over 30,000 people nationally, and ships over 1.4 million packages a day. In 1996 the company became the first small-package carrier to offer service to every business address in North America. One reason for the company's outstanding success is rooted in its commitment to technological innovation and emphasis on safe, reliable service.

Recently, RPS was awarded the 1999 Parcel Delivery Carrier of the Year by the National Small Shipments Traffic Conference (NASSTRAC), an organization of shipping executives and industry peers. In the Parcel Delivery category, this honor was bestowed solely upon RPS for its outstanding industry innovations, leadership, technology, on-time performance, service to customers, and sales support. The significance of this award is that industry professionals and peers deemed RPS to be the best in the industry, above all competitors.

In addition, the company and its employees have been recognized for their unparalleled safety record and efficient service to customers. The American Trucking Association recently named two RPS drivers, Keith Herzig and Vicki Carpenter, as Road Team Captains. This title is conferred upon 12 elite drivers annually for their exemplary safety and service records. Furthermore, RPS won the American Trucking Association's National Truck Safety Contest in 1998 or having the fewest number of accidents in the 20 million miles hauled cat-

egory. RPS can serve as an example to other companies in industries which operate heavily on our nation's highways.

I am honored to have such a fine company in my district and to represent them in Congress. I am certain RPS will continue to have a long and successful future serving America's business transportation needs.

THE ANNUNCIATION PARISH
COMMUNITY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Annunciation Parish Community as it celebrates its 75th year of dedicated service to the West Cleveland community.

The Annunciation Parish Community, through its "willingness to bear Jesus to the world," has served as a center for the religious expression and the spiritual growth of the West 130th and Bennington communities.

Through the rite of Baptism as well as conversions, Annunciation has brought many members of the community into the Catholic faith. Throughout the years, Annunciation has served as a center of spiritual and religious growth within the community through the rites of Eucharist and Confirmation. Also, Annunciation unites Catholic members of the community through marriage, offers spiritual pardons through confession, as well as memorializes the deceased through Christian burial.

Annunciation has also educated generations of young men, women and children who have passed through the residential school over the last seventy-five years. In addition to teaching children the fundamental academic disciplines, Annunciation has taught the importance of service to the community. Currently, Annunciation is involved in helping to bring the Bel-laire-Puritas Development Corporation and the Meals-On-Wheels to the area, providing their end of the month Neighborhood Meal, and monthly Food Collection and Hunger Collection, both of which are very supportive of the West Park Community Cupboard.

It is evident that the Annunciation Parish Community has, over the years, played a crucial role in the community, and that its many years of service have been an invaluable contribution to the West Cleveland community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB'S
CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARE-
NESS ABOUT SCLERODERMA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a disease known as scleroderma that an estimated 500,000 Americans currently suffer from. Even though more people have this disease than have Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis or Cystic Fibrosis, Scleroderma, unfortunately, is not that well known by the public.

Scleroderma literally means "hard skin" and is a chronic disorder that leads to the overproduction of collagen in the body's connective tissue. It can also effect internal organs, causing severe damage and serious complications to the body's digestive, circulatory and immune system. Scleroderma is not contagious or directly hereditary nor is it gender, race or age specific. However, 80% of its victims are women, most in the prime of their lives. Unfortunately, there is no known cause or cure for scleroderma.

I would like to commend the Pleasanton Lions Club within the 10th Congressional District for taking it upon themselves to raise awareness about Scleroderma. Thanks to a request being made by the Pleasanton Lions Club, the Pleasanton City Council on May 18 of this year proclaimed the month of June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month." Also in conjunction with downtown events in Pleasanton, the Pleasanton Lions Club sponsors a booth offering information about the disease that also involves members from the Scleroderma Support Group in the Bay Area who share their stories with the public.

The Pleasanton Lions Club has also established informational displays along with literature at the Pleasanton Library, the Lion's Club visitor/ticket office, the Valleycare Library, Valleycare Mental Center, the Pleasanton Senior Center and the Livermore Veterans Hospital.

On June 11, the Pleasanton Lions Club sponsored their 11th annual golf tournament and dinner to help raise money for scleroderma research. I have been told that the tournament and the subsequent dinner were a roaring success.

It is important that scleroderma be given the attention required to raise awareness and the funds needed to fight this chronic disease. The Pleasanton Lions Club have played a major role in this effort and I thank them for it. I hope others will follow their lead and get the word out to the public about why we need to fight scleroderma.

SALARIES FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of salaries for Members of Congress.

I have spoken time and again about my frustration of having to deal with the issue of automatic cost of living increases for Members of Congress each year. This year was no exception.

Representing a mostly rural district in Kentucky, I believe that I am fairly compensated for my services. It is an honor for me to represent the Second District.

It is important, at a time like this, for us to not lose sight of the fact that in the past several years we have ask America to sacrifice in order to balanced the federal budget. While we, in Congress, have made great strides toward this goal, our job is not yet complete.

I continue to be concerned with the process in which these cost of living adjustments are made. I would rather Congress take an up or

down vote on all pay adjustments for Members and have cosponsored legislation to eliminate the cost of living provision all together. This was the manner in which Congress did business for over one hundred and fifty years.

This is the first time in five years I have voted for a cost of living increase. I have to recognize that many of my colleagues are not fortunate enough to live in a low cost area such as the Second District of Kentucky.

This increase is not just for Members of Congress but for the thousands of federal judges and civil service administrators which are leaving at an alarming rate for the private sector. This exodus is depriving the government of some of the best and brightest that we have to offer.

Mr. Speaker, while I supported the increase for these reasons this time, I will not accept it personally. I intend to contribute my share of the cost of living increase to worthwhile causes in the Second District of Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT SADOW

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Police Chief Albert Sadow who retired from Hazel Park, Michigan's Police Department on July 14, 1999, bringing closure to 38 years of distinguished public service.

Chief Sadow's career with the City of Hazel Park dates back to 1961 when he worked for the Water and Sewer Department at the hourly rate of \$1.67. In addition to holding the civilian posts of Assistant City Manager and Personnel Director, Chief Sadow rose through the ranks of the Police Department from Patrolman to Sergeant to Lieutenant, and finally to Chief in 1985.

Under Chief Sadow's leadership, the City of Hazel Park profited from many positive changes and innovations in public safety. Through the acquisition of state and federal funds, Chief Sadow brought the Hazel Park Police Department into the 21st Century by installing video display terminals, video cameras, radar units and state-of-the-art computer systems in every police cruiser.

Other programs instituted during Chief Sadow's tenure include the Southeast Oakland Crime Suppression Task Force, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), the K-9 unit, Motor Vehicle Carrier and Bicycle Patrol.

In his 38 years of service, Albert Sadow never used a sick day, and has been a tireless, and dedicated public servant. Indeed, Hazel Park is as better and safer place thanks to Chief Sadow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing my friend, Albert Sadow, good health and happiness as he and his wife, Virginia, trade in his police car for their motor home, and spend their retirement visiting their three grown children and enjoying life together.

HONORING JUDGE FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR.

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, We are a country of strong men united by great philosophies, yet we are divided by realities that built this country by stripping a people of their land in order to call it our own and by enslaving another people to a lifelong labor of blood and sweat to build our homes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the brink of a new millennium, not to point out the immaculate flaws of our cherished American dream. Rather, I rise to salute Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., a man who Time Magazine in 1967 deemed "one of the most important men in America" and whose life exemplifies the Biblical statement "To whom much is given, much is required."

Judge Johnson is a man who dedicated more than four decades of his life to ensuring that no man be limited by separate facilities that inherently violate his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. He is an American icon, a legendary Federal jurist from Alabama whose historic civil rights decisions forever shattered segregation in a "Jim Crow" South. His monumental ruling striking down the Montgomery bus-segregation law as unconstitutional created a broad mandate for racial justice that eternally eliminated segregation in public schools and colleges, bathrooms, restaurants and other public facilities in Alabama and across the South. Judge Johnson was an innovator and a crusader for all mankind who will be remembered eternally for giving true meaning to the word justice.

Today, I rise to honor Judge Johnson for helping to bring equality to the American dream; I honor him for bringing justice to an inhumane system of law; I honor him like Martin Luther King, Jr., for allowing justice and righteousness to roll down like a mighty stream.

AMENDMENT TO CZECH CITIZENSHIP LAW PRAISED

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue I have raised in this Chamber many times before: the Czech citizenship law. For 5 years, as a member of the Helsinki Commission, I have argued that the law adopted when the Czechoslovak Federal Republic dissolved, on January 1, 1993, was designed to and had the effect of leaving tens of thousands of former Czechoslovaks de jure or de facto stateless. I have argued, and as Czech officials eventually admitted, all of those people were members of the Romani minority. And I have argued that to have a law with such a narrow and discriminatory impact was no accident. Most of all, I have argued that this law needed to be changed.

In 1996, the law was amended in an effort to placate international critics of the law, but that amendment was mere window dressing

and the Czech citizenship law still left tens of thousands of former Czechoslovaks stateless, every one a Rom. Moreover, there was an important principle at stake: citizenship laws in newly independent states which discriminate against permanent residents who were citizens of the former state on the basis of race, language, religion or ethnicity are not compatible with international norms. That failure to uphold this principle in the Czech Republic could have critical reverberations in every former Soviet Republic and, more to the point, every former Yugoslav Republic.

Many people working on this issue believed that the 1996 amendment was all that was politically possible; that we would simply have to resign ourselves to a generation of stateless Roma. The leadership of the Helsinki Commission, including the current Chairman, Congressman CHRIS SMITH, held our ground and insisted that the Czech law should be amended again, to bring it into line with international norms.

Meanwhile, throughout this first post-Communist decade, the number of violent attacks against Roma climbed, year after year. By the fall of 1997, some 2000 Czech Roma had requested asylum in Canada. By 1998, NGO's reported that there had been more than 40 racially motivated murders in the Czech Republic since 1990, more than the number of racially motivated murders in Bulgaria, Romania, and Slovakia combined—countries with much larger Romani populations. Midway through 1998, the city of Usti nad Labem announced plans to build a wall to segregate Romani residents from ethnic Czechs—a ghetto in the heart of Europe.

Fortunately, the Czech Government elected last year appears to take the human rights violation of Czech Roma much more seriously. Early after taking office, Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky announced that amending the Czech citizenship law would be a priority for his government. Acting on that commitment, the Chamber of Deputies adopted an amendment on July 9 that will enable thousands of Roma to apply for citizenship.

This amendment must still be passed by the Czech Senate and signed into law by President Havel—both steps are expected to take place this year. More critically, it will be necessary to ensure that there is an active campaign to reach all those who have been denied citizenship, to make sure this right is fully exercised. But for now, the Czech Chamber of Deputies has upheld an important principle and, even more importantly, upheld the rights of the Romani minority.

H.R. 2633—THE POLICE BADGE FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduced H.R. 2633, the Police Badge Fraud Prevention Act, a bill intended to remove the state and local police badge from the reach of those who wish to use badges to commit crimes.

If a man or woman in a police uniform knocks on your door and shows a badge, you wouldn't think twice about opening the door.

But by doing so, you may be putting your family in danger. Counterfeit police badges—and fraudulently obtained real ones—have allowed criminals to invade people's homes and terrorize their families.

In 1997, Los Angeles police arrested two men suspected of committing more than 30 home-invasion robberies by impersonating police officers. Among the more than 100 items confiscated from the suspects' home were official Los Angeles police badges.

Despite state statutes against impersonating police officers, criminals appear to have disturbingly easy access to police badges and the means to manufacture counterfeit badges. The local Fox television affiliate in Los Angeles found out just how easy it is in an undercover investigation. The undercover reporter bought a fake Los Angeles Police Department badge from a dealer for \$1,000, a fake California Highway Patrol badge for \$40, and for \$60 a fake badge from the police department of Signal Hill (a city in my Congressional District).

The threat of counterfeit police badges reaches across state lines. Criminals can purchase badges on the Internet and through mail-order catalogs. The interstate nature of the counterfeit badge market calls for a national response to this problem. There is currently no federal law dealing with counterfeit badges of state and local law enforcement agencies.

H.R. 2633, the Police Badge Fraud Prevention Act, would ban the interstate or foreign trafficking of counterfeit badges and genuine badges (among those not authorized to possess a genuine badge). This legislation would complement state statutes against impersonating a police officer, addressing in particular the problems posed by Internet and mail-order badge sales. The bill is similar to H.R. 4282 in the 105th Congress. The new version of the bill includes exceptions for cases where the badge is used exclusively in a collection or exhibit; for decorative purposes; or for a dramatic presentation, such as a theatrical, film, or television production. The Fraternal Order of Police is endorsing this bill.

Misuse of the badge reduces public trust in law enforcement and endangers the public. This bill should be enacted to stop criminals from using this time-honored symbol of law enforcement for illegal purposes.

I am delighted to have the following cosponsors. They are: Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. GENE GREEN, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. ADAM SMITH, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. DANNER, Mr. OSE, Mr. REYES, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. GARY MILLER.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation and urge the House to pass it.

Mr. Speaker, the text of H.R. 2633 is short. It follows:

H.R. 2633

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Police Badge Fraud Prevention Act of 1999"

SEC. 2. POLICE BADGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 716. Police badges

"(a) Whoever—

"(1) knowingly transfers, transports, or receives, in interstate or foreign commerce, a counterfeit police badge;

"(2) knowingly transfers, in interstate or foreign commerce, a genuine police badge to an individual not authorized to possess it under the law of the place in which the badge is the official badge of the police;

"(3) knowingly receives a genuine police badge in a transfer prohibited by paragraph (2); or

"(4) being a person not authorized to possess a genuine police badge under the law of the place in which the badge is the official badge of the police, knowingly transports that badge in interstate or foreign commerce; shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 180 days, or both.

"(b) It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the badge is used exclusively—

"(1) in a collection or exhibit;

"(2) for decorative purposes; or

"(3) for a dramatic presentation, such as theatrical, film, or television production.

"(c) As used in this section—

"(1) the term 'genuine police badge' means an official badge issued by public authority to identify an individual as a law enforcement officer having police powers; and

"(2) the term 'counterfeit police badge' means an item that so resembles a police badge that it would deceive an ordinary individual into believing it was a genuine police badge."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"716. Police badges."

THE CONNECTICUT STATE TECHNOLOGY EXTENSION PROGRAM

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of a program very important to Connecticut. With Congress presently debating its annual spending bills, people may wonder how the budget affects them and their well being. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about one particular program of which I am a strong supporter—the Connecticut State Technology Extension program (CONN/STEP). CONN/STEP helps Connecticut manufacturers become more competitive through the use of advanced manufacturing and management technologies. Through their team of field engineers CONN/STEP provides onsite technical assistance, detailed assessments, outlines potential solutions, and identifies external service providers. CONN/STEP is funded jointly by the State Department of Economic and Community Development and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the Department of Commerce.

Here's how CONN/STEP helped one local company in Bristol, Connecticut. Ultimate Wireforms manufactures arch wires and other orthodontic appliances from superelastic/memory alloys and stainless steel for orthodonty applications. The arch wires apply pressure to teeth, slowly causing them to move a predetermined amount to correctively position teeth. The company has provided

support to the orthodontic industry since 1989 and currently employs 65 people.

Ultimate Wireforms was searching for opportunities to expand their product offerings and decided to focus on the Titanium arch wire business which was undergoing rapid growth. Titanium arch wires apply higher forces to the teeth, which accelerate the corrective orthodontic process. Ultimate, however had no titanium technology experts in house and was being restricted from entering this market by an existing patent, held by a competitor.

Ultimate initially attempted to find a Titanium alloy to leap-frog the patent but all of the candidate alloys had one or more drawbacks and, consequently, were not pursued beyond the laboratory phase. With the eventual expiration of the patent, Ultimate was poised to pursue entry into this market, but lacked the in-house expertise to develop Titanium technology. This led them to CONN/STEP for help. A CONN/STEP specialist, knowledgeable in the Titanium industry, identified melting, ingot conversion and wire making suppliers to make small and medium-sized experimental quantities. CONN/STEP soon became the technical interface with the titanium suppliers, resolving problems as they arose until multiple batches with the correct composition and mechanical properties were produced. Ultimate has since entered the Titanium arch market and is now enjoying a 60% increase in sales.

Satisfied with the technical service, Ultimate Wireforms had subsequently entered into several additional projects with CONN/STEP, including a comprehensive assessment of their accounting and financial system to help Ultimate better understand their internal functions as well as their place in the market.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED SERVICE BY MR. ROBERT TOBIAS

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true leader in the Federal Employees community, Robert Tobias. Since 1983, Bob Tobias has served as the President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) and he has been involved with NTEU since 1968. Bob Tobias has a proud thirty-one year legacy with NTEU and he has improved the workplace for all federal employees. Since 1995 when I first came to Congress, I have had the opportunity to work with Bob on supporting federal employees and their issues.

Tonight, several members of Congress from both sides of the aisle will pay tribute to Bob and his many victories at the helm of NTEU. When my distinguished colleague, Representative STENY HOYER, and I first sent out a request for participation in an evening of Special Orders, I was overwhelmed by the number of my colleagues who expressed an immediate interest in participating in paying tribute to Bob. It is a testament to his ability to work with members of both political parties to find a common ground that protects federal employees and continues to bring our federal government into the Twenty-First Century.

Every major battle that involved federal employees over the past twenty years has included Bob Tobias. He was integral to the creation of the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) in 1983, protecting the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP), restructuring the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), advocating for the closure of the pay gap for federal employees, and instrumental in reforming the Hatch Act which allows federal employees to exercise their rights to participate in political activity.

Bob has not only encouraged federal employees to become more involved politically at both the national and grassroots level, but has also pursued litigation as a tool to advance and expand worker interests. Bob has not only led the fight in landmark court battles, but before the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Federal Service Impasses Panel, and the Office of Personnel Management.

Under his leadership, federal employees won a federal court victory giving them the right to engage in informational picketing; a Supreme Court win that overturned the ban on speaking and writing honoraria; and just earlier this year, another Supreme Court victory in a critical case that established in law the right of federal employees and their collective bargaining representatives to initiate midterm bargaining. That victory gives employees the same rights that agency managers have, and, to a very great extent, levels the negotiations playing field.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned previously, I have worked closely with Bob Tobias on numerous federal employee issues. Bob has dual goals that he has continually achieved throughout his tenure at NTEU—protecting the rights of federal employees, and ensuring that our government effectively and efficiently accomplishes its job. It has been my great honor to work with Bob in meeting those goals.

As one of the primary advocates for federal employees, Bob constantly reminded us of the necessity of hiring the best and the brightest to work in the government, and the necessity of retaining those employees who have the knowledge and expertise to get the job done. He and I have worked together to keep federal employees in the workforce by making sure that they have the same rights, benefits, and protections as do their colleagues in the private sector.

Before I came to Congress, I worked as high-tech executive for a government contracting firm in Northern Virginia. We made it our top priority to treat our human capital as our most valuable asset. Unfortunately, the federal government does not do that with its federal employees who often make numerous sacrifices to be in public service. Instead, it has always been more popular to ask federal employees to sacrifice pay raises, and forego benefits, or to simply perpetuate negative stereotypes of federal employees. Bob Tobias has always known this is inaccurate and he has devoted his entire career to giving federal employees a stronger voice.

For many years, Bob has sought to educate the members of NTEU and federal employees of the importance of participating in the legislative process. I have had the opportunity to speak to the Northern Virginia legislative leaders as well as those who represent their colleagues from across the country at NTEU's annual legislative conference in Washington,

D.C. It is apparent to me that the legislative program is thriving because of Bob Tobias and his commitment to ensuring that the voices of federal employees are heard on Capitol Hill.

NTEU was one of the main forces behind passage of a bipartisan bill, signed into law by President George Bush that would close the pay gap between the government and the private sector. Since the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act (FEPCA) became law, Bob has fought to have the FEPCA language enforced and the pay raises provided for in the law fully funded for federal employees.

During the 105th Congress, Bob and I worked closely together on efforts to restructure the IRS and to ensure that the rights of both the American taxpayer and IRS employees were protected. Bob sought to make the employee's voices heard in the discussions of how to make the IRS more customer-service oriented and more responsive to the needs of the people it serves. IRS reform continues to be on-track and successful. This is in large part because of Bob Tobias' efforts to involve the employees at the agency.

I am certain that he will enjoy many new successes as he pursues writing, teaching, and educating a new generation. I am personally saddened that I will no longer be working with Bob on the numerous issues that affect the many federal employees living in the Eleventh Congressional District of Virginia but I wish Bob, his wife, and his family well as he pursues new opportunities. I will miss his leadership, his commitment, and his expertise.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Bob Tobias on his retirement as President of NTEU. Bob has been a tireless advocate for federal employees for the past thirty-one years, and I would like to join my colleagues in saluting him this evening. His dedication to federal employees and their issues is second to none. His commitment and leadership in the federal employees community will be surely missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS CHARLES UNIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor one of the most productive civic leaders in the history of Dallas, Mr. Thomas Charles Unis, who passed away on July 17th. Mr. Unis was a gentleman, and an outstanding public servant. He was one of the best legal minds ever produced by the state of Texas. The City of Dallas is forever indebted to Mr. Unis for his leadership, and commitment to public service. The loss of Thomas Unis is an incredible blow to Dallas. We are comforted by the fact that Mr. Unis led an exemplary life.

As a man of faith, Mr. Unis was held in the highest regard, being designated a papal knight of St. Gregory by Pope Pius XII in 1953, as well as Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, and a Knight of Malta. Honors were no stranger to Mr. Unis, as he received praise for his dedication to community service, as founder or charter member of a number of organizations including the Catholic Foundation, University

of Dallas, and the Greater Dallas Community Relations Commission.

Tom Unis not only had a record of community involvement, but was also able to use an impressive educational background to gain success in his career. Mr. Unis received his law degree from the University of Texas and served in the Navy in World War II before he began practicing law in 1946. As a result of the war period, cases mounted in the District Attorney's office in Dallas. Mr. Unis, a young prosecutor after World War II, gained experience in the office of the District Attorney, working on cases accumulated from the War period. Tom recalled in an interview that, "we were trying cases morning, noon, and night." Mr. Unis' legal career extended well into the 1980's, when he made his services available to Pennzoil, in the Pennzoil v. Texaco corporate lawsuit. According to Tom, he was compelled to take the case because "it was the biggest piece of litigation that had come along in years." Though Mr. Unis was an incredibly successful attorney, having a four decade career with the firm, Strasburger and Price, he devoted a substantial portion of his time to public service.

Thomas Unis began his participation in the political realm in 1939, at the University of Texas, when he serenaded female students as part of a campaign for student office. In 1957, nearly two decades later, Mr. Unis remained involved in local politics, serving on the Dallas City Council. In the early 1960's J. Erik Jonsson ran for mayor with the backing of the Dallas Citizens' Charter Association. Jonsson eventually persuaded Mr. Unis to become his campaign manager for the mayoral race. Mr. Jonsson, with Tom Unis as his campaign manager, won the mayoral race, and ironically, Mr. Unis later became the president of the Dallas Citizens' Charter Association. During the 1980s, Thomas Unis served on the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) board as an appointee of the Dallas County Commissioners Court. His presence on the DART board as well as the other associations had a significant impact on Dallas, which is why his participation was requested for a large number of public service endeavors.

Mr. Unis died at the age of 81, and is survived by his wife, Dorothy and four children, Tom, Joseph, Cheryl, and Mary. Though the City of Dallas will mourn the death of Mr. Unis, we should remember his own words: "I've had a lot of fun all my life," we should also celebrate his accomplishments, and the fact that he lived a long and memorable life. We all have lost an incredible person, but celebrate Mr. Unis's full and successful life.

HONORING YOSHITO TAKAHASHI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clovis native Yoshito Takahashi. Mr. Takahashi is among the 34 recipients worldwide to win a Medal of Honor from Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs. The award is the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays for his contributions to improving the status of Japanese Americans and the promotion of judo. In this country, the

award is typically given for promoting U.S.-Japan relations and community service. Fifteen people garnered the award in the United States.

Mr. Takahashi has left an indelible mark on healthcare in California's San Joaquin Valley. He helped build the first hospital in Clovis in 1950, and more recently participated in building a newer one. This hospital is a state-of-the-art healthcare facility serving not only the Clovis area but also the nearby mountain communities, including Yosemite National Park. For his service to the community and to healthcare, he was given a proclamation from the Mayor of the city of Fresno. The Board of the Community Health Foundation, which Mr. Takahashi served on for nine years, also recognized him at their annual Community Circle dinner in 1996.

Mr. Takahashi began his relationship with Community Hospitals of Central California (CHCC) when he joined the Board of Clovis Memorial Hospital in 1975. As a board member, he served on the Corporate Affairs Committee, the Long-Range Planning Committee, and the Physicians Relations Committee. Mr. Takahashi also served on the Audit Committee and the Quality Assurance Committee at Clovis Hospital. He continued to serve on the CHCC Foundation Board and until 1977, he was a member of the Foundation Committee responsible for Finance and Asset Management.

As he left his formal association with Community Hospitals of Central California, he left a relationship that started with a 40-bed hospital in Clovis and ended with much more. He was responsible for policy and support to a Community Healthcare System with an annual operating budget of over \$300 million and 1,000 beds, reaching out to people from Modesto to Bakersfield.

Mr. Takahashi has also been active in numerous community organizations and held various leadership positions within them. He has been involved with the Clovis Chamber of Commerce, the Clovis Unified School District Foundation, and the Legacy Fund for the JCL. Mr. Takahashi was a Fresno County representative to the California Freestone Peach Association, served as past Director of the Clovis Rotary Club, secretary-treasurer of the Clovis District Coordinating Council, Director/Founder of Clovis Community Bank, and as president of the Clovis Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and is an active member of the Fresno Buddhist Church, of which he has been a member for 50 years.

Mr. Takahashi believes that participation in competitive sports is as important as community involvement. He has been president of the Central California Amateur Union and a life member of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States since 1974. Mr. Takahashi also served on the Jr. Olympic Judo Committee for 20 years and was an officer of the Central California Judo Black Belt Association.

Yoshito Takahashi has received numerous awards for his extensive community involvement. In 1977, he was named Clovis Citizen of the Year. Two years later, he was inducted into the Clovis Citizens Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yoshito Takahashi for his time and service to his community and for promoting U.S. and Japan relations. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Takahashi, his wife, and family, many more years of continued success.

IN MEMORY OF FEDERAL JUDGE
FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. As a federal judge, Judge Johnson's decisions literally shaped the future and the force of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. As an individual, he was a man whose commitment to his ideals and the law did not wane, despite considerable personal risk and significant sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, it is vital that Congress honor Judge Johnson for both of these roles, and to recognize the loss that his recent death represents.

Judge Johnson served on the U.S. District Court in Montgomery, Alabama, for twenty-five years, during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. In that time he made several decisions that formed the thrust of the civil rights movement. In 1956, when deliberating the Montgomery bus boycott case, he outlawed segregation on public transportation, in parks, restaurants, libraries and schools. In the 1960s, Judge Johnson also signed the original order to integrate the University of Alabama, as well as the order to allow Martin Luther King Jr. and voting rights activists to march from Selma to Montgomery. Moreover, Judge Johnson participated in the decision that ultimately became the "one man, one vote" principal put forth by the Supreme Court.

Clearly, Judge Johnson's contribution to the civil rights movement was both significant and integral to its ultimate success. His impact was felt not only in Montgomery, but throughout the South and the nation as well. One must wonder to what extent the civil rights movement would have succeeded without the support, honesty, and courage of Judge Johnson.

While these decisions are hailed today as just and honest, Judge Johnson faced severe criticism, damaging slander, and even personal danger in the time that he made them. Then Governor George Wallace fueled his gubernatorial race by denouncing Judge Johnson, while his mother's home was bombed and a burning cross was placed on his own lawn. Yet Judge Johnson did not abandon his principles or his commitment to the law. He simply upheld the Constitution and did not question the consequences.

Judge Johnson was truly a great man, whose unwavering principles are too rare today. As a legislator, former judge and lawyer, I am personally inspired by Judge Johnson's commitment to the law, and am grateful for his influence and the example he set for us all. Indeed, I am fully aware that I was able to become the first African American Federal Judge in Florida because of the principles Judge Johnson promoted and the opportunities he made possible for the African Americans of my generation.

Today, I remember him for these opportunities, the strides he made in civil rights, the definition he gave to the movement, and most of all, his commitment to what he perceived as right and just. Judge Johnson deserves this recognition, and I hope my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to this legacy that he has left after him.

DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF
NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT-
MENT TO PRODUCTS OF PEOPLES
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition of providing normal-trade-relations status to the People's Republic of China, because China continues to deny the greater part of its citizenry the most basic human rights; because it engages in the worse kinds of religious, political, and ethnic persecution; because it bullies neighboring countries, and because it undermines international stability by exporting missiles and nuclear technology to some of the world's leading rogue nations.

Every year, we are told that normal-trade-relations status promotes continued economic growth and human rights in the People's Republic of China. While this trade has helped China expand its economy and improve the living standards of a relatively small number of its citizens, I believe it is an absolute stretch of the imagination to argue that China's economic growth has benefited the vast majority of its 1.5 billion citizens who continue to be denied—oftentimes forcibly—the freedom to think, speak, read, worship and vote as they wish.

I simply cannot agree with those who argue that normal-trade-relations will one day result in improved human rights in China as the government of that vast nation continues to violate human rights on a massive scale.

For example, the people of Tibet have been subject to especially harsh treatment by the Chinese Government because their culture and religion are inseparable from the movement that seeks full Tibetan freedom from China—a movement that has been brutally suppressed by the Chinese Government since the late 1940's when armed Chinese forces drove the Dalai Lama into exile.

Since then, the Chinese Government has stepped up its efforts to discredit the Dalai Lama as well as its campaign to eradicate the ancient culture and traditions of Tibet. In May 1994, a new ban on the possession and display of photographs of the Dalai Lama, resulted in a raid of monasteries in which Buddhist priests were brutally beaten by Chinese military personnel.

And it is not just the Buddhists that have been victims of this harassment. Since 1996, all religious institutions in China must register with the state. The failure to do so results in the closure of such institutions—or worse. For example, Human Rights Watch—Asia reports that unofficial Protestant and Catholic communities have been harassed, with congregants arrested, fined, sentenced, and beaten.

Even as recently as July 20, 1999, the Chinese Government has implemented large-scale arrests of Falun Gong practitioners in different parts of China. Falun Gong is a widely practiced meditation exercise that upholds the principles of truth, compassion, and forbearance. Although it has no political motivation or agenda, the Chinese Government has officially banned it as an illegal operation.

Sadly, China's policies have not changed since the United States and China have nor-

malized trade relations. It has persisted on following policies that threaten to make it an increasingly disruptive force among all other nations. China's continuing and growing practice of selling advanced weapons and nuclear technology to Iran, Iraq and other rogue nations, not to mention their theft of U.S. nuclear technology, makes it a threat to world peace.

It should be remembered that, like China today, South Africa had a growing economy, a growing middle class—albeit racially limited, a significant United States business presence, and a severely repressive government. And, just like the arguments supporting normal trade relations with China, it was argued that continued and increased United States trade with South Africa would bring about the economic, social, and political reforms that would inevitably force the South African Government to dismantle apartheid.

However, despite our continued trade relations, the Government of South Africa continued and, in fact, stepped up its campaign of repression and terror, including kidnapping, torture, jailing, and murder, to maintain apartheid. It took a worldwide trade embargo—not, increased trade—to convince a previously intractable South Africa to transform itself into the open and democratic society that it is today. The embargo—not, our previous policy of “constructive engagement”—convinced the South African leadership to, among other things, release Nelson Mandela from 27 years of imprisonment and recognize the African National Congress.

It took the Western World losing patience with the broken promises of the South African Government to bring about change.

It is time that we lose our patience with the People's Republic of China.

HONORING MARIA MORALES FOR
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to stand and honor my good friend, Maria Morales who, at the age of 105, passed away July 27th. Maria was a resident of Casa Otonal, an Hispanic residential and service community in New Haven, Connecticut.

Living for over a century, Maria witnessed many sweeping changes to our Nation's history. Born in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, she came to Connecticut with her son in 1958. For over 20 years she was an active and committed member of the Casa Otonal Senior Center—sharing a myriad of stories with her many friends and family. I often spoke with Maria during my many visits to Casa Otonal. Bright and articulate, she was well-versed in many areas including politics and had a unique gift for patchwork quilts and other hand-crafted specialties. Just this past May, Maria participated in the 13th Annual Centenarian Reception and was the oldest member of the honored group. “Maintaining a strong faith and an active lifestyle” was her secret to a long and successful life. With five children and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Maria's life was full and joyous. It was an honor to have known her.

Maria Morales was an exceptional woman and I am pleased to stand today to pay tribute

to my dear friend and join with her daughter, Domitila, granddaughter, Carmen, family, friends, and the Casa Otonal community as they celebrate her life. Her vitality and spirit continues to shine in the many wonderful memories of her that we all share.

DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF
NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT-
MENT TO PRODUCTS OF PEOPLES
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the President has announced the extension of Normal Trading Relations with the People's Republic of China. I support his decision because I believe that U.S. interests are best served by a stable and open China. However, most importantly, I believe that normal relations with China is the most effective way to convince them to end their human rights abuses and join the international community in support of democracy.

We should demand that China abide by international trade and non-proliferation agreements, cooperate in regional and global peace-keeping security initiatives, and maintain and respect the human rights of the Chinese people.

Our total trade and exports to China has dramatically expanded. The United States maintains a large agricultural trade surplus with China (including Hong Kong), our fourth largest agricultural market. U.S. agricultural exports to China reached almost \$2.9 billion in 1998. In addition, engagement has produced significant breakthroughs in opening China's agricultural market.

If the United States chose not to continue normal relations, we would be the loser. China will find other trade countries to replace the U.S. goods now sold to China. Should I become convinced that ending our trade with China would be more effective in changing their human rights abuses and help achieve U.S. interests, I would vote to do so.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CYPRUS INVASION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today we mark the 25th anniversary of a bitter day in world history, the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Turkey's occupation of Cyprus now stands as the most lengthy and glaring example of contempt for the rule of law in the world today. The lack of enforcement of the scores of United Nations resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Turkey's illegal occupation forces remains a mark of unfulfilled responsibility in the global community.

Cyprus presents an exceptional opportunity for the United States to facilitate a successful solution because a settlement there is manageable. Cyprus is small in size and population, and it has clearly delineated borders as

an island nation. Many United Nations and United States Congressional resolutions have been passed over the years expressing the international community's and the United States' commitment to the removal of Turkish forces and return of Cypriot sovereignty. Failure to secure a Cyprus solution undermines international law, flouts the UN mission, contravenes stated U.S. foreign policy, and is in conflict with the world community's interest in deterring aggressor states.

If the international community fails to create a just solution to this conflict, we will be implicitly accepting a defeatist premise: that ethnic conflicts are unsolvable and that their use as a pretext for international aggression is acceptable. I reject this doctrine. Events over the past decade in Northern Ireland, in the Middle East, and in the Balkans, have proven that the international community can and should negotiate and work for peace, to put an end to ethnic violence and aggression.

My strong belief in the urgency of this cause has resulted in my work to eliminate all U.S. aid to Turkey and my cosponsorship of many resolutions urging an end to this abhorrent conflict and injustice. I have also asked President Clinton to become personally involved in the peace negotiations, which are so critical to the resolution in Cyprus. The Clinton Administration has an opportunity in Cyprus to extend its reputation for supporting the international rule of law and brokering peace in conflict-ridden areas.

I will continue to urge this initiative by the Administration and to work hard with my colleagues here in Congress to pursue peace and justice—and I look forward to an end to the Turkish occupation and oppression of the sovereign nation of Cyprus.

PROTECT THE CHILDREN

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to comment on the remarks of my colleague from the other side of the aisle, who criticized Members for support of H. Con. Res. 107. This resolution rejected the conclusions of a recent article published by the American Psychological Association that suggests sexual relationships between adults and children might be positive for children. We passed that resolution 355–0 with 13 Members voting present.

My colleague stated, "I wonder how many of us read the study before we were willing to vote to say that the methodology was flawed. I wonder how many of us were technically competent to make that decision."

I am a medical doctor and I read the meta-analysis in question. This study is based on bad data, as well as, outdated and irrelevant information. The authors cast aside studies by highly respected child-abuse researchers and instead relied heavily on non-published, non-peer reviewed studies. Sixty percent of the article relies on one study conducted in 1950 which did not even focus on physical sexual abuse.

Two of the authors have advanced pedophilia arguments in other forums. One author published an article titled, "Male

Intergenerational Intimacy" which questioned the taboo against man-boy love. Another article by the author was published in *Paidika*—The Journal of Pedophilia which advocates the legalization of sex with "willing" children.

There is nothing untrue or unsubstantiated about these facts.

Yes, the APA does a lot of good work with regard to child abuse. To their credit, the APA now recognizes the problem with publishing this article and they are making changes in the peer review process to ensure that future articles consider the social policy implications of articles on controversial topics.

It is an interesting argument that my colleague makes about Members not having the technical expertise to vote on the legislative proposal. Using this reasoning, each Member of Congress would have to recuse themselves for 95 percent of all votes because they deal with matters outside their expertise. That is a ludicrous argument and I would suggest to my colleague that a Member does not need to be trained as a psychologist to understand that pedophilia is wrong.

Pedophiles know that if society cannot demonstrate harm to victims of childhood sexual abuse they will be well on their way to "normalizing" pedophilia.

Hear what one pedophile wrote about the APA study. "For several years now studies have been slowly chipping away at the harm myth. But this study is a major hammer-blow. It represents what is really known about sex with boys, and the conclusion couldn't be clearer: When a boy and a man consent to make love with one another, the experience is positive, or at the very least, neutral. There is, simply, no harm. . . . The genie is absolutely out of the bottle now and nothing in the world will be able to stuff it back in."

Frankly, I am surprised that anyone would defend this study. My colleague even quoted scripture and implied that those who condemned the article on pedophilia were guilty of lying.

I think it is appropriate to remember what the Bible said about people who harm children.

"And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believes in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea."

I applaud my colleagues who reached across party lines to protect children from those who would exploit them by normalizing pedophilia.

OBITUARY OF MRS. ADDIE THOMASON (1896–1999)

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Addie Pressley Thomason was born in York County, South Carolina to the late John and Katie Wilson Pressley on October 9, 1896. She was called to her reward on Monday, July 12, 1999 at Gaston Memorial Hospital, Gastonia, North Carolina.

A lifelong resident of the Gastonia metropolitan area, Addie Thomason was the daughter

and wife of farmers. She was a witness to more than a century of change and progress in the area; from mule-drawn transportation to space flight, and from rigid segregation to a society more representative of the needs and aspirations of all its citizens. Through it all, "Mother Addie" was a source of support, stability, courage, and comfort to her family, friends, and community at large. She was passionately committed to education and, despite being denied access to a formal education during her formative years, she persevered in pursuing her own goal of learning to read and write by attending school at the age of 85—an achievement recognized by the then Governor of the State of North Carolina.

During her life, "Mother Addie" was an avid gardener and active member of several area church congregations; including New Home AME Zion in York, South Carolina, Ebenezer Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, and St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Gastonia, North Carolina. She often credited her faith in God as the source of her strength, determination, and longevity.

Addie Thomason was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Thomason and son Fred, Jr. She leaves six loving children: Rev. John Thomason of Bloomfield, New Jersey; Leroy Thomason of Stanley, North Carolina; and Rev. Mason Thomason, Alice Ross, Lillian Thomason, and Cora Lee Hart, all of Gastonia, North Carolina.

She is also survived by two loving daughters-in-law, sixteen grandchildren, twenty-three great-grandchildren, and sixteen great-great grandchildren, as well as a host of family and friends.

THERE IS A VIRUS LOOSE WITHIN OUR CULTURE: AN HONEST LOOK AT MUSIC'S IMPACT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than three months since the tragic event of Columbine High School occurred a few blocks from my home. As we here in Congress continue to struggle to find ways to prevent this terror from ever happening again, I would like to call attention to a report prepared by the Free Congress Foundation which will hopefully broaden our understanding of how cultural factors shape the lives of our youth.

I would like to submit into the record the attached executive summary from the report, written by Tom Jipping, Director of the Center for Law and Democracy at the Free Congress Foundation, which details popular music's contribution to youth violence. Mr. Jipping has worked with at-risk youth for a dozen years, and research and written in this area for over a decade. The report outlines research, survey data, and other evidence documenting how some popular music can lead some young people to violence. Many congressional offices have received a hard copy of the entire report already.

The report does not advocate any specific policy proposals but instead provides comprehensive information that will make anyone, no matter what plan of action they pursue, better informed.

The report has been endorsed by hundreds of grassroots organizations and religious leaders from the evangelical, Catholic, Jewish and Orthodox communities. I urge all Members to read the attached executive summary and the full report as we continue to address the problem of youth violence and delinquency.

"THERE IS A VIRUS LOOSE WITHIN OUR CULTURE:" AN HONEST LOOK AT MUSIC'S IMPACT
(By Thomas L. Jipping)

After two teenagers killed twelve of their peers, a teacher, and themselves at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, Governor Bill Owens said that "there is a virus loose within our culture." The effort to identify that virus is properly focusing on visually powerful elements of youth culture such as television, movies, and video games. This report addresses whether non-visual media such as popular music are also part of this cultural virus that can help lead some young people to violence.

Five days after the massacre, on NBC's Meet the Press, host Tim Russert reported that the Littleton killers idolized shock-rocker Marilyn Manson, described by even the music press as an "ultra-violent satanic rock monstrosity." They were not alone. Kip Kinkel, who murdered his parents and two students in Springfield, Oregon, consumed Manson's message. Andrew Wurst, who killed a teacher at an eighth-grade dance in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, was nicknamed "Satan" because he "was a fan of rocker Marilyn Manson and his dark music." Luke Woodham, who murdered his parents and a classmate in Pearl, Mississippi, was a fan of Manson's "nihilistic" lyrics.

This pattern includes other violent youths whose plans were foiled. A Leesburg, Virginia, boy suspended for making threats against students who mocked his work was fascinated with Marilyn Manson. Five Wisconsin teenagers who had planned "a bloodbath at their school in revenge for being teased" consumed Manson's message.

Some claim this is all just a coincidence. Perhaps, but a series of parallels suggests a more concrete connection. The first is the parallel between the facts of these cases, the motivation of the killers, and the themes in the music they consumed. According to media reports, these boys all killed out of hatred for, or revenge against, those who had offended, harassed, or persecuted them. Luke Woodham, for example, had said that "the world has wronged me."

Consider what their idol Marilyn Manson told them to do about it:

*"The big bully try to stick his finger in my chest, try to tell me, tell me he's the best. But I don't really give a good * * * cause I got my lunchbox and I'm armed real well. . . . Next * * * gonna get my metal. . . . Pow pow pow, pow pow pow, pow pow pow, pow pow pow. . . . I wanna grow up so no one * * * with me
"But your selective judgments and goodguy badges don't mean a * * * to me. I throw a little fit. I slit my teenage wrist. . . . Get your gunn, get your gunn
"I hate the hater, I'd rape the raper
"There's no time to discriminate, hate every * * * that's in your way.
"There is no cure for what is killing me, I'm on my way down; I've looked ahead and saw a world that's dead, I guess I am too; I'm on my way down, I'd like to take you with me
"I'll make everyone pay and you will see . . . The boy that you loved is the monster you fear.
"When you are suffering know that I have betrayed you*

*"Shoot here and the world gets smaller; Shoot shoot shoot * * **

"Live like a teenage christ; I'm a saint, got a date with suicide

*"I'm dying, I hope you're dying too
"I'm gonna hate you tomorrow because you make me hate you today"*

The second parallel is the message Manson himself says he tries to promote. Ordained in the Church of Satan, Manson has said that "[Church of Satan founder Anton] LaVey along with Nietzsche and [British Satanist Aleistair] Crowley have all been great influences on the way that I think." In a foreword to the book *Satan Speaks*, Manson wrote that "Anton LaVey was the most righteous man I've ever known."

On CNN's *The American Edge* program, Manson explained his message: "God is dead, you are your own god. It's a lot about self preservation. . . . It's the part of you that no longer has hope in mankind. And you realize that you are the only thing you believe in." Manson has compared Christians to Nazis and insists that "hate is just as healthy and worthwhile as love." This message contributes to the situation Vice President Al Gore described at a Littleton memorial service on April 25, 1999: "Too many young people place too little value on human life."

The third parallel is Manson's own life, which looks similar to those who consume and act on his message. In one interview, he described it this way: "Then I had to go to public school and they would always kick my ass. . . . So I didn't end up having a lot of friends and music was the only thing I had to enjoy. So I got into [heavy metal rock bands] Kiss, Black Sabbath and things like that."

While Marilyn Manson alone is not the problem, his brand of music promotes violence more aggressively than ever. Indeed, Manson's own response to the Littleton massacre raises the issue to be addressed here. Television or even religion may cause youth violence, he says, but music plays no role whatsoever. In fact, he claims that he is actually a victim when he asserts that the media "has unfairly scapegoated the music industry. . . . and has speculated—with no basis in truth—that artists like myself are in some way [sic] to blame."

Unfortunately, it appears that the music industry's only response to this cultural crisis is simply to deny that its products have any effect on anyone. One the June 29, 1999, edition on CNN's *Showbiz Today* program, for example, musician Billy Joel dismissed as "absurd" the idea that music influences violent behavior. Elton John put it more bluntly: "It has nothing to do with the musical content or the lyrics whatsoever. [The idea is] absolute rubbish."

No one, or course, argues that popular music is the sole cause of youth violence. Something as complex as human behavior does not have a sole cause. The question is not whether popular music is the exclusive cause of youth (something no one seriously argues), but whether there is any "basis in truth" for the proposition that some popular music makes a real contribution to youth (something only the music industry denies).

The affirmative answer to this question rests on three pillars. First, media such as television and music are very powerful influences on attitudes and behavior. Second, popular music in an even more powerful influence on young people. Third, some of the most popular music today promotes destructive behavior such as violence and drug use.

Effective prescriptions require accurate diagnoses. Whether the solution involves parental involvement, public policy, pressure on recording companies or retailers to change their practices, or all of these and more, the effort must be informed by a comprehensive understanding of the problem.

TONI PARKS, GUEST LECTURER
FOR THE RC HICKMAN YOUNG
PHOTOGRAPHERS WORKSHOP

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the constituents of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, the residents of Dallas and my colleagues in the House of Representatives in taking great pleasure to proclaim July 31st, 1999 as "Toni Parks Day."

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Toni Parks is an internationally acclaimed photographer whose works have appeared in prominent magazines and newspapers throughout the U.S. and Europe. Her pictures have appeared in *Stagebill*, *American Visions*, *USIA*, *Life* and *Arts*, to name a few. Toni Parks has been featured in numerous exhibitions including the Look Gallery, Tony Green Gallery in England, Columbia University, and the Martin Luther King Gallery. Her photos consist of fashion and beauty as only Toni Parks can vision. In her years as a photographer, she has received critical acclaim for her works of art.

Toni Parks will take the podium to share her experiences with the students and enthusiasts of the RC Hickman Young Photographers Workshop at the South Dallas Cultural Center, located on the corner of Robert B. Cullum and Fitzhugh. The program is presented each year by the Artist and Elaine Thornton Foundation For the Arts, Inc., a non-profit organization established to educate, promote and embrace the arts of all disciplines including drama, dance, visual, and music. Its mission is to bring about positive social awareness to the inner city community, using art as a tool for positive social change.

We salute you Toni Parks.

Therefore, I ask that all citizens of Dallas join in celebrating July 31st, 1999 as "Toni Parks Day."

RECOGNIZING JACQUE CORTEZ

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jacque Cortez upon her selection by Visalia-area schools as a "Good Kid." Jacque was chosen based on her academic achievements, classroom leadership, and efforts in literature and music.

The "Good Kid" program was formed in an effort to provide students with positive reinforcement. The program allows Visalia teachers to nominate students, who have excelled in academics and demonstrated a good work ethic, for recognition in the Visalia Times Delta newspaper. Those individuals selected are mentioned in a piece featured daily in the Times Delta.

Jacque Cortez, who was nominated by her fifth grade teacher, currently attends sixth grade at Willow Glen Elementary in Visalia, California. Throughout Jacque's years at Willow Glen, faculty and classmates alike have considered her a leader who is eager to learn and always willing to assist others.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Jacques Cortez for being selected as a "Good Kid." I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jacques continued success in her academic and extracurricular pursuits.

INSIGHTS ON THE PEACE PROCESS

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to enter into the record an opinion piece from the May 30th Washington Times by former Illinois Senator Chuck Percy. In this article, Senator Percy concisely points out the present status of the peace process and those steps that must occur next for progress to continue. This is a timely and insightful piece that I commend to the attention of all members.

[From Washington Times, May 30, 1999]

EMBRACING PEACE AND PROGRESS

The statement of Ehud Barak, newly elected Israeli prime minister, that he is determined to revive the Middle East peace process, to withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon and to negotiate with Syria and the Palestinians is good news.

Mr. Barak's words are encouraging to Israelis who seek the security only peace can bring, to Palestinians whose aspirations for a place of their own can only be satisfied with the acquiescence of Israel, and to the United States, which has worked for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute for so many years.

Also encouraging is Syria's quick and affirming response expressing a willingness to resume negotiations with Israel and asking that Lebanon be included.

Apparently, Mr. Barak—once he has put together his government coalition—is prepared to take bold initiatives to break the impasse in Israeli-Palestinian relations. As an example, he might implement the Wye Agreement that requires withdrawal of Israel from 13 percent of the West Bank. This wouldn't require further negotiations because it already was agreed upon and should have been done many months ago, if the Likud government had not reneged on the deal.

It would be appropriate and wise for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to acknowledge openly Israel's need for security by announcing and taking strong, credible new measures to suppress terrorist acts against Israel. Mr. Arafat has to do more than he has done previously.

Such moves by Mr. Barak and Mr. Arafat would begin to clear the smothering fog or acrimony and distrust left behind by Benjamin Netanyahu and would engender an atmosphere more conducive to serious negotiations.

Considering the checkered nature of the peace process up to this time, it is hard to have confidence a fresh start will succeed. But Mr. Barak comes to office with a clear mandate from his people, and the Palestinians must recognize that they now have another chance to complete the process developed in Oslo.

Mr. Barak and Mr. Arafat surely must realize the future of the region lies in peace—not stalemate, and not war. If they determine to choose a future in which their human and financial resources can be concentrated on peacetime tasks, their region can be more secure for all, and there will be an opportunity—with help from the inter-

national community—to build their economies and establish trade links between themselves and the entire world. It is still true that political relationships tend to follow the trade lanes.

In 1974, when I served as a Senate representative on the U.S. delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, I was in the hall when Mr. Arafat made his first speech there. At that time, I thought it might be possible to find the path to peace, if the leaders of Israel and the Palestinians had the courage to meet, to discuss the dimensions and details of their mutual dilemma, and to decide what risks they could afford, what concessions they could make.

Since then, much progress has been made in communications between Arabs and Israelis. From Camp David to Madrid to Oslo, the peace process became viable and promising. But always there were interruptions in the dialogue due to fears aroused on one side or the other, often by terrorist acts or unwise unilateral moves by leaders.

Nevertheless, through all the contacts over the years since Egypt's President Anwar Sadat went to Jerusalem, relationships have developed between Arabs and Israelis on many levels, including the official level. We now are at a stage where a considerable majority of Israelis support the peace process and where Mr. Arafat shows increasing sensitivity to the security concerns of Israelis.

We now are approaching the time when the largest and most difficult issues must be addressed. Mr. Barak and Mr. Arafat have a responsibility to lead and to persuade their constituencies of the necessity to make concessions for peace. They must stand strong against radical elements that will seek to undermine their efforts to settle their problems at the peace table.

After the horrors of World War II had devastated Europe, the French and Germans, traditional and bitter enemies, came together and gradually their mutual antagonisms faded and they began to enjoy the blessings of peace, security, reconstruction and economic development. And just this year, 1999, it has been announced that France and Germany have become each other's major trading partners.

This is the kind of achievement peace might bring to the peoples of Israel and the Arab world, if they take full advantage of the opportunities created by Ehud Barak.

UNLOCKING THE AVIATION TRUST FUND

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last week the New York Times ran an editorial by Chairman BUD SHUSTER, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, concerning the Aviation Investment and Reform Act (AIR-21). I agree with Chairman SHUSTER 100 percent. Last year, Chairman SHUSTER unlocked the highways trust fund and ensured that highway taxes were spent on highways. Now, we are preparing to do the same thing this year with the aviation trust fund. I am proud to be a part of this effort to ensure that the taxes paid by aviation users will be spent only on aviation improvements. Unlocking the aviation trust fund will benefit the entire aviation community.

I have attached a copy of Chairman SHUSTER's editorial that I would like to call to the

attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, July 17, 1999]

ONCE, CONSERVATIVES KNEW THE VALUE OF TRANSPORTATION

(By Bud Shuster)

Abraham Lincoln called Senator Henry Clay "my beau ideal," largely because he was dedicated to building America. Clay, whose nickname was "Capital Improvements Harry," helped pass legislation to construct roads and inland waterways to tie America together. During the Civil War, Lincoln authorized the construction of the first transcontinental railroad. Teddy Roosevelt championed the Panama Canal, and Dwight Eisenhower created the Interstate System.

Fiscally responsible Republicans, all.

Fortunately, most modern-day conservatives still believe in building America. Witness the strong support last year from conservatives at all levels of government for the Transportation Equity Act, which unlocked Eisenhower's highway trust fund and allowed it to be used for its intended purpose of improving highways and transit systems.

Unfortunately, some conservatives seem dedicated to breathing new life into Benjamin Disraeli's adage that "it is much easier to be critical than to be correct." These critics have little inclination to deal in facts or face the reality of a growing America. They know the cost of everything but the value of nothing. Some have called this "Know-Nothing Conservatism."

They criticize increased spending on transportation, but they do not differentiate between transportation trust-fund dollars and general tax dollars. They do not tell you that the trust fund receives money from an 18.3-cent-per-gallon tax on gasoline and an 8 percent surcharge on airline tickets, all of which is designated solely to pay for our country's transportation needs.

These conservative critics oppose investments by trying to discredit them. They call spending on public works in someone else's backyard a pork barrel project, but that is far from the truth. In the Transportation Equity Act, for example, only 5 percent of the money goes to Congressionally mandated projects. The rest goes to the Department of Transportation or to the states.

This year, some conservatives are once again keeping their heads buried in the sand. The House overwhelmingly passed the Aviation Investment and Reform Act last month, by a vote of 316 to 110; 67 percent of Republicans—including the Speaker and the majority leader—approved this measure.

But this didn't stop some conservative critics from immediately attacking the bill as "busting the budget" and "fiscally irresponsible."

Never mind that many Americans are furious over the decline in air service. Never mind that our antiquated air-traffic control system, which fails somewhere nearly every week, needs both reform and an infusion of capital investment.

Never mind that the National Civil Aviation Review Commission established by our Republican Congress warns that "the United States aviation system is headed toward gridlock shortly after the turn of the century" and that "it will result in a deterioration of aviation safety, harm the efficiency and growth of our domestic economy, and hurt our position in the global marketplace."

Never mind that the money in the aviation trust fund will skyrocket to \$90 billion within 10 years if we don't make the investment. Never mind that the aviation taxes would otherwise be used in smoke-and-mirrors budget gimmickry to help finance general

tax cuts. Never mind the bill does not contain any projects earmarked for any specific Congressional districts.

And never mind that some "Know-Nothing" conservatives in the media will attack this session for being a "do nothing" Congress. The one thing Congress is doing, over their objections, is building assets for the future of our country.

Perhaps the next time they attack Government spending, they might reflect on an observation by the columnist George Will: "Many of today's conservatives rallied 'round keeping control of the Panama Canal. But would such conservatives have built it in the first place?"

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING A FRONTAL ASSAULT AGAINST FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely concerned about the very disturbing reports from Russia which indicate that Kremlin authorities are intimidating, harassing and attempting to control the nation's news media. These unwarranted attacks have been directed primarily at Media-Most, which is the largest and most successful privately-owned television and publishing company in Russia.

Democracy and freedom are still new and largely untested in Russia, and efforts are still underway to develop firmly rooted democratic institutions. Until now, however, press freedom has been one of the early successes in Russia's transformation from a totalitarian society to one that permits true freedom, including free speech and uncensored news reporting.

Mr. Speaker, any efforts to impose government censorship or control over any news media—and particularly over private news organizations—would be a tragic and serious setback for democratization in Russia. The news media must be free to report, even when that it is critical of the government. There is absolutely no justification for government agencies to threaten media companies as a means of controlling what is reported in the news.

I want to report to my colleagues in the Congress about recent disturbing actions by the Russian government that seem to be directed at some of the most professionally respected news organizations in Russia. Reports from Moscow indicate that the Director of Presidential Administration, Mr. Alexander Voloshin, is engaged in a personal campaign against the prestigious NTV and other private media enterprises because he is dissatisfied with how the news media are covering the government and its activities.

It has been widely reported by wire services that the Federal Tax Policy Service of the Russian Federation is relentlessly monitoring the financial and economic activities of privately owned television companies, publishing houses, and other mass media outlets. The Russian Government appears to be involved in a campaign of targeting these news organizations in order to undertake investigations or other legal or quasi-legal actions against those who own or operate independent news media outlets.

Mr. Speaker, another form of harassment has been an effort to censor the media. Just this month, the Russian Government established the Ministry for Publishing, Television and Radio aimed at "consolidating" the government's "ideological work." That last phrase, Mr. Speaker is a chilling throw-back to conditions under the totalitarian Soviet regime, when the government and Communist Party made a concerted and successful effort to strictly control and censor all news media under the rubric of "ideological work."

The head of this new ministry is a "press czar" who has been equipped with power to oversee and possibly censure the content of news reports and other information programs in Russia. This is a frightening prospect for all news organizations—and particularly for privately owned independent media—who could lose their freedom to report news as they see it. This censorship effort could be particularly destructive during periods of increased political activity, such as national election campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, the situation today in Russia is especially precarious given President Yeltsin's fragile health and the absence of strong leadership at the national level. This has been clearly demonstrated by the fact that President Yeltsin has dismissed three Prime Ministers in the past two years. With the upcoming parliamentary elections in December 1999 and presidential elections in June 2000, the situation is expected to become even more politically charged and volatile.

It would appear, Mr. Speaker, that the newly launched effort to control and/or censor the media in Russia is in large part explained by these upcoming elections. With the beginning of serious political activity over the next year in connection with the parliamentary and presidential elections, Kremlin authorities have accelerated their offensive against NTV and other independent news outlets. One of the clearest indications of this struggle is the fact that the state-owned television network ORT is using its news programs to undermine privately-owned rival television network.

Mr. Speaker, I have consistently supported U.S. programs to assist Russia to get back on its feet economically, to develop strong private institutions, and to establish a functioning market-oriented economy. All of us want to see Russia succeed and become a strong and viable democratic country which plays a positive role in the community of nations. Respect for freedom of expression and freedom of the press, however, are absolutely essential if we are to assist Russia, and an uncensored press is essential if Russia is to take its appropriate place in the world.

I call upon President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin to take quick and decisive action to end once and for all the efforts within the Kremlin to punish, intimidate or threaten independent news reporting in Russia. The government must also end its policy of favoritism by rewarding those who gratuitously promote the official Kremlin line.

Mr. Speaker, with the critical parliamentary and presidential elections coming up in Russia during the next twelve months, the Russian government must do everything in its power to insure free and fair reporting of all political events. Freedom of expression and freedom of the press are absolutely essential for any democratic nation. Russia's international reputation and its position among the community

of nations depend on how it deals with this most serious threat to its democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I was unable to record my vote on the following measures that were considered here in the House of Representatives today. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 343.

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 344 I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 345, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 346, I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 347, I would have voted "nay."

AFTER KARGIL—WHAT?

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over an important foreign policy decision. If left unpunished, the Pakistani conduct during the recent Kargil crisis—particularly in view of the Clinton Administration's handling of the crisis—would set a dangerous precedent for would-be aggressors and rogue nations. Failing to address the Pakistani precedent swiftly and decisively is therefore detrimental to the national security and well being of the United States.

Three aspects of the Pakistani behavior during the crisis should worry us:

1. Intentional reliance on nuclear capabilities in order to shield one's own aggression. A policy advocated by radical Islamists since 1993, the current Pakistani nuclear doctrine constitutes a profound deviation from the post WWII norm of using nuclear weaponry—an ultimate deterrence in the form of weapons of last resort in case of aggression against one's own state and/or most vital interests. The Pakistani intentional and unilateral ultimatum—repeated warnings to escalate the Kargil crisis into a nuclear war in case India's reaction to the Pakistani aggression threatened to deprive Pakistani of any achievement—exceeds even the most aggressive use of the nuclear card by the USSR at the height of the Cold War (when Moscow reiterated its commitment to use nuclear weapons solely at time of a major world war). In contrast, the Pakistani nuclear ultimatum is identical to the nuclear blackmail doctrine of the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—a doctrine based on brinkmanship and blackmail which both states tinkered with but are yet to have implemented despite repeated crises. Thus, it is Islamabad that was the first to cross the threshold of aggressive use of one's own nuclear potential.

2. Concealing the use of one's own national military forces as deniable "militants." In so doing, Islamabad demonstrated unwillingness

to face responsibility for actions that amount to an act of war. This is a blatant break of the international order stipulating that sovereign governments acknowledge their own actions—thus opening up to United Nations intervention as well as other forms of crisis management and containment by the international community. While such international intervention may not be welcome in Islamabad, or elsewhere for that matter, this is the way the modern world works: The acknowledged responsibility and accountability of sovereign governments are the cornerstones of international relations and are thus the key to preventing all out chaos in an already volatile world. Indeed, governments that internationally break away from this posture are labeled rogue and are shunned by the international community.

3. Using Pakistani-controlled Islamist terrorists in a war-by-proxy against India, presently waged mainly in Kashmir. The kind of terrorism Pakistan is blatantly using against India in pursuit of primary and principal interests of the state has long been considered unacceptable and illegal by the international community. The Kargil crisis and the ensuing marked intensification of Islamist terrorism throughout Kashmir constitute an unprecedented escalation of Islamabad's continued sponsorship of, and reliance on, terrorism to further national strategic objectives. Even in the aftermath of the Kargil crisis, Islamabad is yet to demonstrate any inclination to stop its war-by-proxy against India.

By stressing the imperative for a "face saving" exit for Nawaz Sharif, the Clinton Administration in effect went along with Islamabad's lies—thus covering up Islamabad's rogue-state actions. The Clinton Administration in essence rewarded Pakistan for its aggression and nuclear blackmail, as well as blatant violation of previously signed international agreements (most notably the 1972 Simla Agreement). Taken together, the "solution" to the Kargil crisis forwarded by the Clinton Administration and the definition of the "Kashmir problem" the US is now committed to help resolve, make a mockery of the most basic norms of international relations and crisis resolution dynamics. As such, the Clinton Administration effectively encourages other rogues and would-be aggressors to pursue their objectives through brinkmanship, blackmail, aggression, and terrorism.

Instead, Pakistan should be recognized as the rogue and terrorism sponsoring state that it now is. Pakistan should be treated accordingly and, given the cynical use of war-by-proxy and nuclear threats for such a long time, dealt with harshly by the international community. This is an urgent imperative for the United States. With several other rogue states accumulating weapons of mass destruction and long-range delivery systems capable of hitting the heart of the United States, as well as sponsoring high-quality terrorists capable of conducting spectacular strikes at the heart of the United States, it is imperative for Washington to ensure that none would dare to use these instruments against the United States, its allies and vital interests. The Clinton administration's "understanding" of, and support for, Islamabad's rogue state behavior and blatant aggression send the opposite message—encouraging rogues and would-be aggressors to dare the United States and harm its interests with impunity.

In contrast, India should be rewarded for the responsibility and self-restraint practiced by

New Delhi. Under the extreme pressure of a foreign invasion—albeit of a limited scope—on the eve of bitterly contested national elections, the Indian government rose to the challenge and placed the national interest ahead of political expediency. In so doing, New Delhi behaved like the major democratic power India has long claimed to be. India should therefore be recognized and treated as the great power it is by the United States and the rest of the international community.

COLORADO BLUESKY ENTERPRISES IS COMMITTED TO HELPING OTHERS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the innovation and dedication of Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc., of Pueblo, Colorado. The services which this institution provides for the developmentally disabled citizens of Pueblo and Pueblo County are both noble and commendable.

Formerly known as Pueblo County Board for Development Disabilities, Inc., Colorado Bluesky Enterprises was established in March of 1964. As one of 20 Community Centered Boards which contracts with the state of Colorado, Colorado Bluesky provides services for people with developmental disabilities. CBE first began its work in an old former school building with only 12 students. CBE has grown to serve several thousand people. Currently, CBE dedicates time to working with the 750 citizens with developmental disabilities.

CBE provides numerous services and opportunities for the individuals whom rely on its benefits. Through an array of day programs for people of all ages, job training, community participation, and OBRA day services for individuals in nursing homes, CBE strives to make a better life for the people of Pueblo.

Colorado Bluesky Enterprises provides personal care alternatives such as host home services, staffed personal care alternatives, and drop in supports. CBE also works to ensure affordable housing for families with low incomes.

I am grateful for the dedication and courageous efforts of Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, and I would like to congratulate them on 35 years of commitment to helping others. On behalf of all of those it has served, I would like to thank CBE and offer recognition of their dedication to the Pueblo community.

TAXPAYER'S DEFENSE ACT

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I join with Mr. HAYWORTH to introduce the Taxpayer's Defense Act. This bill simply provides that no federal agency may establish or raise a tax without the approval of Congress.

One of the principles on which the United States was founded was that there should be no taxation without representation.

In The Second Treatise of Government, John Locke said, "[I]f any one shall claim a power to lay and levy taxes on the people, * * * without * * * consent of the people, he thereby * * * subverts the end of government." Consent, according to Locke, could only be given by a majority of the people, "either by themselves or their representatives chosen by them." The Boston Tea Party celebrated Americans' opposition to taxation without representation. And the Declaration of Independence listed, among the despot acts of King George, his "imposing Taxes on us without our Consent." First among the powers that the Constitution gave to the Congress, our new government's representative branch, was the power to levy taxes.

The logic of having only Congress establish federal taxes is clear: only Congress considers and weighs every economic and social issue that rises to national importance. While any faction, agency, or sub-agency of the government may view its own priorities as paramount, only Congress can decide which goals are of the importance to merit spending taxpayer dollars. Only Congress can determine the level at which taxpayer dollars should be spent.

The American ban on taxation without representation has not been seriously challenged during our nation's history. The modern era of restricted federal budgets, however, threatens to erode the essential principle of "no taxation without representation." In ways that are often subtle or hidden, federal agencies are taking on—or receiving from Congress—the power to tax. Federal agency taxes pass the costs of government programs on to American consumers in the form of higher prices. These secret taxes tend to be deeply regressive and they create inefficiency in the economy. They take money from everyone without helping anyone.

The worst example of administrative taxation is the Federal Communications Commission's Universal Service Tax. "Universal service" is the idea that everyone should have access to affordable telecommunications services. It originated at the beginning of the century when the nation was still being strung with telephone wires. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 included provisions that allowed the FCC to extend universal service, ensuring that telecommunications are available to all areas of the country and to institutions that benefit the community, like schools, libraries, and rural health care facilities.

Most importantly, the Act gave the FCC the power to decide the level of "contributions"—taxes—that telecommunications providers would have to pay to support universal service. The FCC now determines how much can be collected in taxes to subsidize a variety of 'universal service' spending programs. It charges telecommunications providers, who pass the costs on to consumers in the form of higher telephone bills. The FCC recently nearly doubled the tax to \$2.5 billion dollars per year, and Clinton Administration budgets have projected a rise to \$10 billion per year. Mr. Speaker, this administrative tax is already out of control.

The FCC's provisions for universal service have many flaws. Among them are three 'administrative corporations' set up by the FCC. The General Accounting Office determined that the establishment of these corporations was illegal and the FCC has collapsed them

into one, no less illegal corporation. The head of one of these corporations was originally paid \$200,000 dollars per year—as much as the President of the United States. Reports have come out about sweetheart deals between government contractors and their State government friends, who have access to huge amounts of easy universal service money.

This FCC prompted our inquiry into this issue. As our study continues, it reveals that a number of federal agencies have been given, or discovered on their own, the power to tax.

Congress has given taxing authority to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Because these taxes are within statutory parameters, we have less concern with them than others, but they are still taxes and an important principle is at stake: no taxation without representation. The Constitution gives the taxing power only to Congress. In practice, we see a direct correlation between an agency having taxing authority and the agency overspending taxpayer dollars. Congress must retain the power of the purse.

More egregious examples are those where agencies have spontaneously discovered the power to tax. We categorize the FCC's telecommunications tax as such, and note two taxes, past and proposed, on Internet domain name registration. Mr. Speaker, just when we thought we had protected the internet from taxation with Internet Tax Freedom Act, we discover new taxes right under our noses. The first, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, collected more than \$60 million before a federal judge put a stop to it. The second, under the aegis of the Commerce Department, proposes to charge \$1 per Internet domain name per year. I would like to know what Commerce Department official stands to be voted out of office if he or she sponsors an increase in this tax.

Finally, we note with dismay that the Administration's electricity legislation proposes a tax as high as \$3 billion to be imposed by the Secretary of Energy. Federal agency taxation appears to be a popular trend in some circles.

Washington special interest groups seem to be able to unite around one thing: taking money from taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, special interests who feed at the federal trough are already geared up to accuse the Republican Congress of cutting funding for education and health care if any attempt is made to rein in the FCC. They will cynically frame the issue as a matter of federal entitlements for sympathetic causes and groups.

But the most sympathetic group is the American taxpayer, whose money is being taken, laundered through the Washington bureaucracy, and returned (in dramatically reduced amounts) for purposes set by unelected Washington poohbahs. This is why we must require the FCC, and all agencies, to get the approval of Congress before setting future tax rates.

Should tax dollars be used for federal programs? In what amounts? Or should Americans spend what they earn on their own, locally determined priorities? Requiring Congress to review any administrative taxes would answer this question.

My bill would create a new subchapter within the Congressional Review Act for mandatory review of certain rules. The portion of any agency rule that establishes or raises a tax

would have to be submitted to Congress and receive the approval of Congress before the agency could put it into effect. In essence, the Act would disable agencies from establishing or raising taxes, but allow them to formulate proposals for Congress to consider under existing rulemaking procedures. It is a version of a bill introduced and ably advocated for by Mr. HAYWORTH. He joins me today as a leading cosponsor of this bill.

Once submitted to Congress, a bill noting the taxing portion of a regulation would be introduced (by request) in each House of Congress by the Majority Leader. The bill would then be subject to expedited procedures, allowing a prompt decision on whether or not the agency may put the rule into effect. The rule could take effect once a bill approving it was passed by both Houses of Congress and signed by the President. If the rule were approved, the agency would retain power to reverse the regulation, lower the amount of the tax, or take any otherwise legal actions with respect to the rule.

Mr. Speaker, the cry of "no taxation without representation" has gone up in the land before, and today we are hearing it again. Congress must not allow a federal agency comprised of unelected bureaucrats to determine the amount of taxes hardworking Americans must pay. While preserving needed flexibility, the Taxpayer's Defense Act will allow Congress alone to determine the purposes to which precious tax dollars will be put.

TAXPAYER'S DEFENSE ACT

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the Taxpayer's Defense Act, which Mr. GEKAS and I are introducing today, would establish a system to allow Congress, and only Congress, to approve new taxes before they take effect. Before an administrative tax could be imposed on the American people, an agency would submit the rule or regulation to Congress. The Majority Leaders in both the House and Senate would introduce the bill by request. The bill would then be subjected to expedited procedures and the rule could not go into effect until an approval bill was passed by the House and Senate and signed by the President. It is important to note that this legislation would only affect future administrative taxes, not those currently in effect.

I believe the constitutional precedent for this legislation is clear. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the "power to lay and collect taxes." It doesn't give unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats this power; it gives only Congress this power. Moreover, the Constitution's "separation of powers" doctrine ensures that each branch of government would have one specific duty. By delegating legislative powers to unelected officials, we are allowing the executive branch to become both the maker and enforcer of our nation's laws, which is in direct violation of the Founders' intent. By enacting the Taxpayer's Defense Act, Congress would once again restore accountability to federal taxation and reduce the hidden taxes that are being imposed on the American taxpayer.

While administrative taxation hasn't been used often, it is used increasingly to circumvent the legislative process. One of the most troubling administrative taxes is the Federal Communications Commission tax on long distance telephone service, which is also known as the Gore tax. Every telephone caller in the United States is subjected to this tax, which raises approximately \$2.5 billion annually. Other regulatory agencies are also doing an end run around Congress, including the Commerce Department's \$1 tax on every Internet domain name. The National Science Foundation has tried a similar approach by authorizing a \$30 tax on registration of domain names on the Internet. Fortunately, a federal judge ended this illegal tax, but not before taxpayers shelled out \$60 million. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Agricultural Marketing Service, has also gotten into the game with taxation of food commodities in order to fund advertising a promotion of commodities.

The point is simple: Americans can't hold unelected executive branch employees accountable for administrative taxation. However, Americans can hold their representatives accountable for these taxes if we once again require Congress to vote on all of these administrative taxes. The Taxpayer's Defense Act would achieve this goal.

In December 1773, American colonists boarded three British ships in Boston harbor and emptied chests of tea into the sea. This event, which we all know as the Boston Tea Party, celebrated American opposition to taxation without representation. That is why the Constitution specifically states that Congress shall have the power to tax. I urge this Congress to once again make Congress accountable for all taxation by passing this important legislation.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH: UNLAWFUL, UNACCEPTABLE, UNNECESSARY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's National Bioethic Advisory Commission recommended the United States government fund the practice of killing human embryos for research purposes. On top of the release of the Commission's report, the Health and Human Services General Counsel has advocated the use of federal funds in using the destroyed embryos for research purposes. Mr. Speaker, funding destructive embryonic research with tax dollars is unlawful, unacceptable to the American people, and unnecessary since recent advancements reveal viable stem cell alternatives in adults.

Mr. Speaker, in 1995 Congress successfully added the Dickey/Wicker amendment to FY 1996 Labor/HHS appropriations bill. Each year since then, Congress has reaffirmed this crucial amendment as part of our law. The Dickey/Wicker amendment prohibits the use of federal funds for the creation of a human embryo for research purposes or for research in which an embryo is "destroyed, discarded or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death." While HHS has tried to rewrite the current law

on embryo research, it is clear that Congress has prohibited all funding of "research in which" embryos are destroyed or discarded. Simply stated, the taxpayer funding of research which relies on the intentional killing of human beings would violate the law.

Using federal funds for such an unlawful practice is anathema to the people of the United States. Already eight states have enacted laws that make destructive embryonic research illegal. According to a 1995 Tarrance poll, 74 percent of Americans oppose the use of tax dollars for human embryo experimentation while 64 percent indicate "very strong" opposition. In addition, Bill Clinton, whose commission has not recommended the use of federal funds for destructive embryo research, issued a statement in December 1994 opposing the use of federal funds "to support the creation of human embryos for research purposes." While the American people are quite evenly polarized on the issue of abortion, a majority of the population oppose the use of tax dollars to fund lethal research on human embryos.

Furthermore, scientists have confirmed there is no medical necessity for embryonic stem cell research. Those who thought embryonic stem cells were the only or best hope for organ repair have been proven wrong. Recent advancements have led scientists to consider an alternative, adult-derived stem cells. According to D. Josefson's article in the *British Medical Journal*, new research suggesting that adult nerve stem cells "can de-differentiate and reinvent themselves" as blood-producing stem cells "means that the need for fetal cells as a source of stem cells for medical research may soon be eclipsed by the more readily available and less controversial adult stem cells." The Wall Street Journal article by L. Johannes entitled, "Adult Stem Cells Have Advantage Battling Disease," states that adult "precursor" or stem cells "may prove much more useful to medical science" than cells obtained by killing human embryos—that is, preborn human boys and girls. While scientists used to be concerned that there were no known adult stem cells for some critical organs, Harvard Medical School researcher Evan Y. Snyder now thinks "we will find these stem cells in any organ that we look."

Mr. Speaker, killing preborn babies for tissue harvest is never justified. The logic of this practice is not unlike that of the Third Reich, where torture was rationalized for medical research. It is something no civilized nation should condone, much less fund with the tax dollars of conscientious, disapproving Americans. I defy anyone in this chamber to look me in the eye and say that the deliberate taking of a new life, a unique and growing human being, is a justifiable sacrifice for the curiosity of science. When there are non-lethal alternatives, I defy anyone to tell the American people they have no choice but to pay for these experiments in defiance of their conscience, the law, and the more fundamental principles of human dignity.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND TEEN VIOLENCE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit for printing in the RECORD this statement by high school students from my home State of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I believe that the views of these young people will benefit my colleagues.

REGARDING SCHOOL VIOLENCE

(On behalf of Sarah Mayer, Jessica Normand and Colleen McCormick)

Jessica Normand: Set aside the accusations, the anger and the 20-20 hindsight about the massacre of twelve students and one teacher at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, on April 20th. The fact remains that Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold's disturbed states of mind are the result of problems that our society has a responsibility to acknowledge and change.

This event has broken the already damaged national spirit, but it has brought to our attention the moral decline in American society. The lack of spiritual guidance among the nation's youth that was once thought to be politically correct has only made it easier for young Americans to feel lost. Why did Eric Harris believe so strongly that life held no value, and why did Dylan Klebold feel so alone that he followed the demonic beliefs of his friend? These are the questions America must ask itself. Parents, teachers, administrators, friends, relatives, religious leaders, and especially our government need to take an active role in the lives of young Americans if future tragedies like the one at Columbine High are to be avoided.

Sarah Mayer: Why is it that prayer is forbidden in public schools, yet at the memorial service for those who died in Littleton, the theme of every speech was that the only way to heal such a wound was through faith in God and prayers of the spiritual community?

My fellow classmates and I at Rice Memorial High School are privileged to have prayer in our everyday lives. We feel that teaching kids about their spirituality gives them a stronger moral base to make better decisions throughout their lifetime. An anonymous student from a Catholic high school once said, "We do not kill together because we pray together."

Colleen McCormick: Kids need to be able to differentiate between fantasy and reality. But can they do this when video games like Doom, which teaches children how to kill people, are readily available? In order to curb the availability of those games, greater restrictions need to be placed on the Internet and sale of home games. Although the Internet has a lot faster communication and is an effective learning tool, it has also made unhealthy influences such as pornography and deadly games to be at the fingertips of the young.

The media is another aspect of our society that needs to be more careful about what images they present to children in this country. While freedom of the press is a trademark right of Americans, perhaps that right needs to be restricted in terms of violence and sex.

Our proposal is that legislation be passed to more strictly enforce the age limits at movie theaters, and all television channels be required to rate their shows according to a government rating system.

Jessica Normand: Besides the media and schools, the most important influence every

child has are their parents. As a society, we need to implore all parents to be involved in their children's lives, and to keep track of the outside influences, such as the Internet and the harmful media we mentioned earlier.

Sarah Mayer: Kids need to understand that this isn't a video game, it's life, and there is no reset button.

Thank you.

REGARDING TEEN VIOLENCE

(On behalf of Alicia Prince)

ALICIA PRINCE: I am Alicia Prince, here to speak on reducing teen violence.

I think we are all ready affected by what happened in Littleton. It has definitely given me the passion to come up here to say it.

I am originally from East Los Angeles, California, and I experienced firsthand the type of violence that happens throughout our neighborhoods, communities, and in our schools. I think that firearms are a really big part of that, and I think that that should be discussed. I'm not antigun; I understand peoples' rights to carry firearms, private collectors, and households as well. But when they're in the wrong hands, there is trouble, there is a problem there. And a child's hands are the wrong hands, and there is no reason why they should even be accessible.

My specific suggestion would be that there is absolutely no reason why every gun in this country, in this state, cannot be locked up, and ammunition locked up separately. There is no reason to have a loaded gun in your car, in your house. I understand where it is an issue in big cities. But it is not an issue where you have to carry a 9 millimeter strapped to your ankle and walk into a school in Vermont.

I think that this also goes to a deep-rooted problem of the way our parenting is in this society. Too many times, I have seen people perpetuate these cycles of poverty and violence because they just don't know any better. They don't know how to direct children in a different direction, because that's the way they have been taught. I think that mandatory parenting classes are absolutely essential. It is very important, and no harm can be done in it. I think it should be mandatory, and I think it is very important that parents know how to take care of their kids and know how to prevent this from happening.

There is no reason why these kids, especially in Littleton, should not have been—you know, this couldn't have gone unnoticed. Okay? They were in the garage five hours, you know, working on bombs, and they had it written in diaries. This was accumulating for the past year and a half before it was, you know, executed. And I think that that is a direct, you know, obvious thing, that the parenting is just not happening adequately enough.

I am also a ward of the state. I am a foster kid. And all of the foster parents in which I live in their homes, every gun that is in their house and ammunition must be locked up separately. There is no reason it should not be done in every other house throughout this country.

So my two main suggestions would be, really good family counseling. Parents need to know how to create safe families, so that a teenager or a child has a sense of safety and belonging in their home and in school, instead of having to fight or shoot their way out of safety in school or in the community. And I think it is absolutely ludicrous this is happening when we have every power of preventing it.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS. Thank you, Alicia.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2587) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Largent amendment to H.R. 2587. This measure would undermine efforts to place children in the foster care system in the District of Columbia in permanent homes.

There are currently over 3,000 children in the D.C. foster care system, more than 1,000 of whom are currently eligible for adoption. Many of these children have special needs and are difficult to place. No other development will have as great an impact on these children's lives as whether they will be able to be part of a family of their own. By placing restrictions on joint adoptions, the Largent amendment lessens the chance that these 3,000 children will ever be part of a "forever family."

The Largent amendment would also prevent child welfare workers from making decisions based on the best interests of individual children. The success of the child welfare system depends upon its ability to recognize that every waiting child has individual needs. The Largent amendment favors the judgment of Congress over that of child welfare professionals, who are experts at determining what constitutes a safe and loving home. Child advocacy organizations across the country, including the Children's Defense Fund and the Child Welfare League of America, also oppose this amendment and have recognized that it could endanger the future of over 3,000 children.

Mr. Chairman, no event has so profoundly transformed my own family as the adoption of my children, Kathryn and Scott. I will always be deeply grateful that my wife and I were able to welcome these two exceptional children into our home. The Largent amendment could prevent other families from experiencing this joy, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL PARISH
HOSTS YOUTH GROUP MISSION
TRIP TO HONDURAS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Douglas Zimmerman of St. Thomas Episcopal Parish in Miami, Florida has always been known for his unselfish giving, his Christ-like character and his invaluable service to his parish and community. Among his many gifts are the precedents he sets and the ways in

which he leads children by example into following the teachings of Jesus Christ.

This Monday, August 2nd, Reverend Zimmerman will, once again, instruct students to give as Christ gave of himself, as he organizes a group of 12 dedicated students who have volunteered part of their summer vacation to lend a helping hand to underprivileged families in Central America.

During this mission trip, Reverend Zimmerman and his team of 12 students will travel to Honduras, a country which was ravaged by Hurricane Mitch, to establish places of refuge for families who were left desolate. They will bring light to a world of darkness by providing children and families with the basic necessities which we, the fortunate, often take for granted. During their 9-day trip, the mission team will have the unique opportunity of building a House of the Lord, a church where individuals, families and entire communities can come to know Jesus. The sanctuary to be built, where families will gather for worship, where the needy will receive, and where the hungry and tired will find comfort and rest, will restore faith, hope and joy to the people of Honduras.

In light of the many contributions Reverend Zimmerman and the St. Thomas Episcopal Parish Youth Mission Team will make this summer, I ask that my colleagues join me in prayer to ensure safety for this team and in commending them for their faithfulness in bringing the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

IN HONOR OF MS. BRIGID
O'KEEFFE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ms. Brigid O'Keeffe, a student from Ohio's 10th district. Ms. O'Keeffe has recently been announced as one of the National Security Education Program's Undergraduate Scholarship and Graduate Fellows for the 1999-2000 academic year. The National Security Education Program, which was established in 1992, was created to increase U.S. citizens' understanding of different world cultures, to increase international cooperation and security and to strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness. The National Security Education Program fellows study those languages and areas of the world most critical to future U.S. national security.

Ms. O'Keeffe was selected from a rigorous national-merit based competition made up of a pool of hundreds of well qualified applicants. Aside from traveling to Russia, where she will be studying, Ms. O'Keeffe will participate in the National Security Education Program's Federal service requirement. All National Security Education Program award recipients have agreed to seek work in the Federal government in an organization with national security responsibilities. In the past, the program has placed award recipients in various positions throughout the Federal sector, including: Departments of Commerce, Defense, State, and Treasury; NASA, USAID, USIA, and the Intelligence Community.

Ms. O'Keeffe will no doubt be a fine addition to any one of these organizations. She should be congratulated on her accomplishments.

SALUTE TO THE MEDAL OF
HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. STEVE E. BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the recent Memorial Day recess.

Over that weekend, I had the distinct pleasure and honor to assemble with a very special group of veterans, nearly 100 recipients of the Medal of Honor. It was truly an inspiring gathering, and at the same time, proved a very humbling experience. These individuals epitomize the true meaning of selfless sacrifice and personal commitment.

While many have answered the call to duty, they have answered a higher calling. A calling that is spiritual in nature and bigger than one's self. For love of God, country, family and friends, these brave individuals knowingly placed themselves in harm's way, ready to sacrifice life and limb so that their comrades may live.

Their significant contributions have helped secure a more democratic and peaceful world over the last century. More importantly, their actions serve as a testament to all Americans about serving and caring for others. A recent letter to me from Major General Robert Moorehead, United States Army Retired, portrays a fitting description describing that powerful event.

General Moorehead stated:

Memorial Day weekend in Indianapolis was one of the most significant weekends in the history of our great capital city. As the last days of the 20th century continue to unfold, Memorial Day weekend in the capitol of Indiana was one to remember. Nearly 100 Medal of Honor recipients were guests for a series of stirring tributes. These included a solemn Memorial Service; the dedication of the only memorial to recipients to the Medal of Honor; grand marshals in the IPALCO 500 Festival Parade; an outdoor concert by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra; and a parade lap around the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval prior to the start of the race.

As the 20th century draws to a close, many wonder if the nation has lost sight of the sacrifices which have been made to preserve freedom. After this Memorial Day weekend in Indianapolis, my heart remains swollen with pride in our land and my fellow citizens. The reception given these ordinary men who did extraordinary things can never be equaled.

I am especially proud of the untold hundreds of volunteers who gave of their time and talent to make these events possible. Memorial Day Weekend 1999 did much to convince me that our nation's freedom loving spirit is alive and well.

A TRIBUTE MR. WING FAT

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in tribute to Mr. Wing Fat of Sacramento, California. The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center will honor him for all of his great contributions to the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in our area. I ask all of my

colleagues to join me in saluting Wing Fat's outstanding philanthropic endeavors.

Wing Kai Fat was born in 1926 in Canton, China to Frank and Mary Fat. At the age of nine, Wing and his mother joined his father in the United States. While his parents worked hard to achieve the American dream, Wing, being the older sibling to his brothers and sisters, became a father figure in the family.

While helping to raise his younger brothers and sisters, Wing worked along side his father for very long hours at Frank Fat's restaurant when it opened in 1939. Wing graduated from Sacramento High School in 1945 as a very accomplished athlete.

From 1945 to 1947 Wing served in the U.S. Army Air Force during the end of World War II. He rose to the rank of sergeant while stationed in the Philippines. He returned home to graduate from Sacramento State College in 1951.

Wing became the manager at Frank Fat's restaurant where he quickly acquired a reputation as a gregarious and gracious host. While working at Frank Fat's, a famous Sacramento eatery, he hosted presidents, governors, members of Congress, legislative leaders, and many celebrities.

Governor Pat Brown appointed Wing to the California Veterans Board in 1966 and Governor Ronald Reagan re-appointed him to that post in 1971. In 1981, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Wing to the California State Fair Board. Wing remains close with former California Governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson.

Besides Frank Fat's, Wing is co-owner of Fat City, California Fat's, and a soon-to-be opened restaurant in Roseville, California. He has established a remarkable reputation for his business acumen, as well as his community service activities. He has served on the board of directors of Cathay Bank and River City Bank in Sacramento.

Additionally, he has served on the boards of the California State University Sacramento Foundation, the Sacramento Host Committee, and the Golden State University Board. Wing is currently active on the University of California at Davis Hospital Leadership Council and the Transplant Hope Foundation to raise funds for the UCD Transplant Research Center. He is also the past president of the Grandfathers Club of Sacramento.

Wing Fat is truly a gentleman in every sense of the word. He epitomizes honesty in business and service to community. His strong links to the business community have made the Asian Pacific Rim Festival founded by his father a great success every year in Old Sacramento. With the passing of his legendary restaurateur father, Wing devotes himself to continuing Frank Fat's legacy of strengthening the influence of Asian Americans in business and politics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in applauding Wing Fat's great contributions to the Sacramento community. As he is honored I wish him a very enjoyable evening at the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center's annual August Moon Night Dinner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

During rollcall vote No. 354 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been here I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I was unable to record my vote on the following two measures that were considered here in the House of Representatives on July 29, 1999. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 348 as well as rollcall vote 349.

DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT- MENT TO PRODUCTS OF PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution. Denying NTR to China will undermine United States economic interests. It is our twelfth largest market and China increased imports from the United States 11 percent last year, all products made by highly skilled workers earning high wages.

Connecticut exports to China in 1998 totaled more than 301 million ranking it tenth in the Nation. Connecticut businesses and its workers have a direct interest in maintaining normal trading relations with China and with further opening China's markets. With a quarter of the world's population and the third largest economy, China's buying power will grow tremendously in the years ahead. If we do not engage this emerging major market, other nations will replace U.S. companies and through the significant resulting profits gain a competitive advantage over us. That has already happened in the helicopter market through short-sighted American policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is just a fact that China is making quiet but significant progress in many areas. Unlike Russia, China has recognized the need to recapitalize their state-owned businesses and has gradually sold many to foreign companies. They are modernizing their economy without the level of unemployment, crime, and turmoil that has plagued other communist nations faced with this challenge.

Furthermore, western companies have brought management practices to China that develop individual initiative and respect workers' ideas. They have brought more stringent

health safety and environmental standards accomplishing goals like reducing industrial waste 35 percent and harmful air emissions 36 percent, as did Carrier since 1995.

And western companies have brought more opportunity to workers through benefits like Otis Elevator's home ownership program.

In addition, China has had direct elections in half its villages, gaining experience with secret ballots and multicandidate elections. In some provinces, 40 percent of the candidates are young entrepreneurs and not Communist Party members. In 1997, as part of the rule of law initiative the training of legal aid lawyers began.

In sum, China is modernizing its economy and governance through a process that is harmonious with her long history and cultural traditions, but that should not obscure the growth of values in common with people in the west. It should certainly not obscure our common interest in the growth of trade between our nations based on the principles that undergird the WTO relationships. By renewing NTR and working with China to enter WTO we can help China adopt free and fair trade policies. Lower tariffs make our goods more affordable. Distribution rights under WTO will provide access to customers. Good for China, good for us.

I urge renewal of the normal trade relations with China and opposition to this resolution of disapproval.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill that will aid the families of Toms River, New Jersey, a community in my district, as we continue to determine the cause of an unusually high rate of childhood cancers. Through extensive testing, a radioactive substance known as radium 224 has been detected in this drinking water supply. Today, we know very little about radium 224 and it is time we take a closer look at its possible effects on public health.

My bill would require the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to complete a study of the toxicological effects of Radium 224 in drinking water. The study is to include an epidemiologic analysis of populations in areas where Radium 224 occurs in drinking water.

It would also require the administrator of EPA to establish safe drinking water standards for Radium 224 under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This measure would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to instruct that each state revise its water quality assessment plan every five years and that the results be made available to the public.

It has been reported that childhood cancer rates in the United States are increasing each year. More and more, we hear of other cancer clusters appearing around the country. This measure, coupled with the efforts of all those working on the Toms River case, will provide valuable assistance in addressing many of the mysteries associated with cancers in children. We have a commitment to find the cause of this cluster, and failing to do so would be a setback for everyone living near an environmentally hazardous site.

MAVIS TOSCANO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to extend my warmest thanks, and my fondest best wishes, to Mavis Toscano, my chief of staff, who will be leaving my office at the beginning of August. We have become accustomed in Congress to staff members who come and go in a period of months or a few years, replaced in a matter of days by their successors who themselves are destined for only limited stays. Mavis Toscano was the shining exception to this rule. Mavis has been on my staff for some 15 years, dating back to when I was a member of the County Board of Supervisors in San Jose, and in my own journey from California to Washington she has been an indispensable assistant, an invaluable help, an immeasurable asset.

Over the years Mavis has handled nearly every imaginable task for a congressional staff member, sometimes all at once by herself. For the last several years she has run my district office in San Jose, creating there a smoothly functioning enterprise whose successes on behalf of the people of the 16th District of California are innumerable. Her service to our community, both during her time with me and while she worked for the California State Assembly, has been at all times both resourceful and thoughtful. At times it has seemed like Mavis knew everyone in the District by his or her first name, and was owed a debt of gratitude by nearly all of them for her service.

Yet at the same time that I will greatly miss both the services of Mavis Toscano and her decades-long friendship, I cannot but be happy for the tremendous opportunities that remain open to her for the rest of her career. Just as my desire to serve brought me from San Jose to Washington, so have Mavis's talents offered her even greater opportunities to continue the sort of work at which she has excelled for the past 15 years.

I wish Mavis Toscano great success and good fortune in her next endeavors, and I know well that, judging by her work for me over the last 15 years, she will not be short of either.

IN HONOR OF MR. NATHAN
BEDROSIAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Nathan Bedrosian, a student from Ohio's 10th district. Mr. Bedrosian has recently been announced as one of the National Security Education Program's Undergraduate Scholarship and Graduate Fellows for the 1999–2000 academic year. The National Security Education Program, which was established in 1992, was created to increase U.S. citizens' understanding of different world cultures, to increase international cooperation and security and to strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness. The National Security Education Program fel-

lows study those languages and areas of the world most critical to future U.S. national security.

Mr. Bedrosian was selected from a rigorous national-merit based competition made up of a pool of hundreds of well qualified applicants. Aside from traveling to Japan, where he will be studying. Mr. Bedrosian will participate in the National Security Education Program's Federal service requirement. All National Security Education Program award recipients have agreed to seek work in the Federal Government in an organization with national security responsibilities. In the past, the program has placed award recipients in various positions throughout the Federal sector, including: Departments of Commerce, Defense, State, and Treasury; NASA, USAID, USIA, and the Intelligence Community.

Mr. Bedrosian will no doubt be a fine addition to any one of these organizations. He should be congratulated on his accomplishment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family commitment I was unable to cast House roll-call vote 355 on July 30, 1999, to instruct conferees on the Financial Services Modernization bill, H.R. 10. If I had been present I would have voted "aye."

This motion requires the conferees to insist on the strongest possible consumer protections for financial and medical privacy of consumers and to protect against discrimination in access to financial services, including not weakening the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). These are essential to protect consumers and to modernize the financial services industry.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S
INVASION OF CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and my colleague from New York, Mrs. MALONEY for organizing this Special Order. This year the anniversary of the illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus is, tragically, of particular significance. It is being called the "Black Anniversary" because 25 years—a quarter of a century—have now passed since the Turks invaded Cyprus on July 20, 1974. So while it is important to remember this date every year, this year's remembrance has added meaning.

The Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus is tragic for so many reasons. Innocent lives were lost. Families and friends were torn apart, and have been kept apart by an occupation force of 35,000. The human suffering that has been caused by the Turkish invasion can never be reversed, and we must always remember on this day that a great many Cyp-

riots lost their lives for no good reason. None of us here tonight can say anything that can reverse the brutality that took place. We can only honor the memory of those whose lives were prematurely cut short by Turkish aggression.

In addition to the human suffering, the Cyprus problem is tragic because the history of attempts to resolve the situation is one of missed opportunities for peace. Since the invasion, hundreds of attempts to solve this problem have been made, yet to date, the island is divided and remains one of the most militarized places on the face of the earth. Recent statements from the Turkish side, moreover, indicate their obstinance is only getting worse.

Following the leading role it played in bringing NATO's war with Serbia to an end, the Group of 8 major industrialized nations, the G8, agreed to press for a new round of United Nations negotiations on the Cyprus issue. The Secretary General of the U.N., Kofi Annan, endorsed the G8's plan and subsequently announced he was prepared to invite the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to hold comprehensive peace negotiations. The Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktash quickly dismissed the U.N.'s proposal for a new round of peace talks as "nonsense".

The justification the Turkish leader provided for rejecting a new round of peace negotiations is absolute garbage. Denktash said he would not attend any negotiations at which the democratically elected president of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, represented the Cypriot government. According to Denktash and his patrons in Ankara, the Cypriot government does not have any official jurisdiction or authority over the portion of the island that has been illegally occupied by Turkish troops for almost 25 years.

Adding to this absurdity, Denktash and Turkey claimed talks based on the bizonal, bi-communal framework that had been earlier accepted by the Turkish side and endorsed repeatedly by the international community were useless because they have to date failed to acknowledge the existence of two separate governments on the island. In other words, the Turkish side is now claiming talks are useless unless Cyprus and the entire international community accept terms that have for years been rejected as absurd.

Glafcos Clerides is recognized internationally as the President of Cyprus. Turkey is alone in its recognition of the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. No other country in the world recognizes the portion of Cyprus that the Turks have illegally occupied as an independent state. The Turkish suggestion that future peace negotiations must be between leaders of independent nations was made by Denktash for the sole purpose of killing the proposed round of negotiations before it has a chance to succeed.

The international community has reaffirmed its position on the Cyprus issue twice in the last seven months. In December of last year, the U.N. Security Council passed a number of resolutions on the Cyprus situation, including Resolution 1217, which reiterates all previous resolutions on the Cyprus problem. Those resolutions state that any solution to the Cyprus problem must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded.

That position was again reaffirmed in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1250, which was passed just about a month ago on June 29.

So on the one hand, we have the international community taking steps to reaffirm its commitment to a peaceful and just settlement to the Cyprus problem, and on the other, the Turks are only hardening their position and thumbing their nose at whatever the international community suggests. And as I said this is truly tragic; this most recent refusal promises to be another chapter in a historical record that clearly documents a systematic campaign by the Turkish side to undermine proposals for peace no matter where they come from.

Last year, for example, the Cypriot government again offered to demilitarize the island after it decided to cancel the deployment of a defensive air-to-surface missile system. The Turks rejected the offer. In a separate gesture, the Cypriot government invited the Turkish-Cypriot community to participate in the Cyprus-EU negotiating team. That offer was also rejected. When the United States made an attempt last year to restart talks, the Turkish side undermined them before they had a chance to begin. In that instance, they insisted on two irrational preconditions to negotiations, prompting Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, who was leading the United States effort, to publicly rebuke the Turkish side for not being seriously interested in resolving the problem. And just last month, as I mentioned earlier, the Turkish side dismissed the U.N. invitation to start a new round of comprehensive talks later this year as nonsense.

For 25 years now, the Cypriot people have had to endure this unconscionable behavior from the Turkish side. It is long, long past time to bring this nightmare to an end. In my view, the United States needs to stop looking the other way and do more to bring the Turkish side to the negotiating table. Twenty-five years of Turkish intransigence is more than enough evidence to prove that the strategies we have employed to bring Turkey to the table have been, and still are, totally ineffective.

The United States is the most powerful nation in the world. The full weight of that power should be employed to move the peace process forward. I have said many times before on this floor that we can achieve that goal by focusing American efforts to move the peace process forward on the Turkish military, which has real and substantial influence on decision-making in the Turkish government. The United States government must convey to Ankara in forceful and unequivocal terms that there will be direct consequences in United States-Turkish relations if Ankara does not prevail upon the Turks to come to the negotiating table in good faith.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in communicating this message to the Turks, and to the key decision-makers in the United States Government, on this historic day. On the Black Anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, the Cypriot people deserve to know that the United States has the utmost respect for their suffering and struggle, and will do whatever it takes to help them secure their freedom and independence.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN BRYAN L. ROLLINS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the exceptional services which Captain Bryan L. Rollins, U.S. Navy, has performed for the United States and for the County of San Diego. Captain Rollins' selfless devotion and patriotic performance make him a truly admirable American and one deserved of recognition by this body. It is for his outstanding service to our Nation and its citizens that I wish to congratulate and thank Captain Rollins.

Captain Rollins has had an impressive Naval career with each assignment more demanding and more impressive than the last. He served aboard the U.S.S. *Constellation* as Chief Staff Officer in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean through 1987. In November of 1990 Captain Rollins assumed duties as Commanding Officer of the Sun Downers. He amassed over 3000 hours and more than 800 carrier landings aboard the U.S.S. *Carl Vinson* and the U.S.S. *Kitty Hawk*. While serving as Navigator aboard the U.S.S. *Kitty Hawk*, Captain Rollins performed honorably and exceptionally in Somalia, the Persian Gulf and Korea. The Navy recognized his outstanding performance by awarding him four Meritorious Service Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

In April of 1996, he was selected as Deputy Chief of Staff for Commander, Navy Region Southwest. It was there that he was instrumental in the formulation and implementation of a regionalization plan which involved over 65,000 personnel and four full-scale Naval bases. In addition to consolidating and incorporating commands throughout San Diego, he established the Navy's first regional business office and developed business strategies which have become standard throughout the Navy-wide regionalization plan. His effective and efficient tactics have saved the Navy countless millions of dollars as it undergoes drastic changes nationwide. His management skills, foresight, and exceptional communication skills allowed him to gain widespread support for Navy operations throughout the community.

Captain Rollins' remarkable contributions to San Diego County, the United States Navy, and our Country speak to his intellect, his professional drive, and his relentless pursuit of excellence. I wish him the very best success as he starts a new chapter in his life. Congratulations and, as always, "fair winds and following seas."

AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the House Congressional Native American

Caucus, it is a honor for me to introduce a bill creating an American Indian Education Foundation. I especially want to thank the original cosponsors of this bill, they include: Representatives PATRICK KENNEDY, GEORGE MILLER, TOM UDALL, J.D. HAYWORTH, EARL POMEROY and JIM KOLBE.

As a senior member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I have enjoyed the opportunity of developing proposals designed to support Indian education. Up for reauthorization this Congress is the Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act that includes a section devoted to Indian education. This Act supports the educational, cultural and academic needs of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children.

It is estimated that the BIA educates approximately 12 percent of the Native American K-12 population. This means that 88 percent of our American Indian and Alaska Native youth rely on supplemental educational programs like Johnson O'Malley. This program provides services to more than 200,000 Indian students. However, these programs are drastically underfunded.

A critical need for an increase in funding for school construction exists in Indian country. When I came to Congress 23 years ago, I was appointed Chairman of the Indian Education Task Force. I will never forget visiting schools that were in such poor condition that the children of these schools could barely keep warm let alone have a chance at getting a decent education. I know that the judges in my hometown in Michigan shutdown prisons that were in better condition than many schools I visited.

Our Native American students deserve a decent education. It is our responsibility to ensure that our children are studying in environments conducive to learning. I support the creation of an American Indian Education Foundation because I believe Congress must find a new way to supplement current funding for BIA Indian education programs. The Foundation would encourage gifts of real and personal property and income for support of the education goals of the BIA's Office of Indian Education Programs and to further the educational opportunities of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

The governing body of the Foundation would consist of 9 board of directors who are appointed by the Secretary of Interior for an initial period. The Secretary of Interior and the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs would serve as ex officio nonvoting members. Members of the board would have to be "knowledgeable or experienced in American Indian education and . . . represent diverse points of view relating to the education of American Indians." Election, terms of office, and duties of members would be provided in the constitution and bylaws of the Foundation. Administering the funds would be the responsibility of the Foundation.

This bill would allow the Secretary of Interior to transfer certain funds to the Foundation. It is my understanding that the initial funding for the Foundation would come from existing donations or bequests made to the BIA. Funds prohibited by the terms of the donations would not be used for the Foundation.

The Foundation is not a new idea to Congress. Congress has, from time to time, created federally chartered corporations. In 1967, Congress established the National Park Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to

raise funds for the benefit of the National Park Service. Funds received from individuals, corporations, and foundations are distributed to individual parks through competitive grants. My bill is modeled after the 1967 Act.

I believe that an American Indian Education Foundation could be just as successful as the National Park Foundation. I want to emphasize that I believe that Congress has a federal trust responsibility to ensure that every Native American receives a decent education. This Foundation would not replace that responsibility, but would supplement it through grants designed to support educational, cultural and academic programs.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my remarks on creating an American Indian Education Foundation.

THE AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be able to join my friend and cofounder of the Native American Caucus, Congressman DALE KILDEE, for the introduction of this legislation.

Over the past several years it seems to me that Indian Country has continually been on the defensive. Often tribes have had to struggle to simply keep the status quo against legislative proposals that would serve to undermine Tribal sovereignty and weaken the Trust relationship.

Today can be different. Today we have a chance to do something positive for Indian Country. Right now we can begin a process where the hallmarks of treaty and trust are celebrated. We can offer Indian Country a distinct opportunity to improve the quality of life for future generations of Native children.

As I am sure the Committee is well aware, the state of education in Indian Country is far below that of non-Native communities.

The Per Pupil Expenditure for public elementary and secondary schools during the 1994-95 school year was over \$7,000. The Indian Student Equalization Program funding for BIA students was about \$2,900.

Unlike public schools which have state and local resources for educations, Indian schools in the BIA are totally reliant upon the Federal Government to meet their educational needs.

According to the 1990 Census, the American Indian poverty rate is more than twice the national average as 31 percent of American Indians live below the poverty level.

The 1994 National Assessment of Education Progress showed that over 50 percent of American Indian 4th graders scored below the basic level in reading proficiency. Another NAEP Assessment showed that 55 percent of 4th grade American Indian students scored below the basic level in mathematics.

American Indian students have the highest dropout rate of any racial or ethnic group (36 percent) and the lowest high school completion and college attendance rates of any minority group. As of 1990, only 66 percent of American Natives aged 25 years or older were high school graduates, compared to 78 percent of the general population.

Approximately one-half of BIA/tribal schools (54 percent) and public schools with high Indian student enrollment (55 percent) offer college preparatory programs, compared to 76 percent of public schools with few (less than 25 percent) Indian students.

Sixty-one percent of students in public schools with Indian enrollment of 25 percent or more are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, compared to the national average of 35 percent.

And finally, many of the 185 BIA-funded schools are in desperate need of replacement or repair.

Members of the Committee, it is clear from these statistics that there is a pressing need in elementary and secondary Indian education. My colleagues, this is a situation which must be met with fierce determination. We need to support an aggressive agenda for Indian education because the current landscape is not meeting the challenge.

Right now, the BIA and Office of Indian Education is not authorized to distribute privately donated monetary gifts or resources to supplement the missions of these agencies. Yet every year numerous inquiries from the public are made as to where they can donate funds that will be spent wisely on behalf of Indian education. Simply put, we are missing out on a unique opportunity to help funnel non-governmental resources into Indian education. Ultimately, I believe this legislation is the appropriate answer to this situation. We can give the public a high profile mechanism to reach out to Indian Nations in a way that is apolitical and noncontroversial.

Simply put, the establishment of an American Indian Education Foundation is good government. It speaks to a modern way of going things in which successful private-public partnerships are created. It is also an efficient way to get at the heart of a very pressing problem without placing an undue additional burden on taxpayers.

Within 2 to 3 years after enactment of this bill the Foundation should be completely self-sufficient and will not use more than 10 percent of its generated funds to pay for operating expenses. My colleagues, let's be clear at the outset—the purpose of this legislation is not to create a new level of bureaucracy or make some staffer rich. In my opinion such a situation would be one more example of where this government has failed in its trust duty to Indian Country. In brief, it is my intention to hold the bureaucracy to the letter of the law that we are now beginning to draft.

As for the role of Congress, I do want to make one thing perfectly clear. It should not be the intent of this legislation to use the funds raised to take the place of existing Indian education programs. Rather, these funds should be considered entirely separate and supplemental to the efforts of the Federal and tribal governments.

My colleagues, we all understand the budget shell game and I do not want to see the success of this program leveraged against governmental funding for teacher training, school modernization, and education technology initiatives.

In short, I do not want to hear one voice out there saying that we do not need to fund the Office of Indian Education because the Foundation has X amount of dollars in its account. To do so would again be another slight against our trust and treaty obligations to the First people of this nation.

In the end, I will not reiterate the obvious. Indian Country is lacking in the resources needed to train its children for the demands of the global economy.

The 106th Congress has a chance to help rectify this problem. While we should continue to allocate more federal resources towards the growing population of children within Indian Country we can also make it easier for private interests to become involved. Helping Indian children achieve is not only a public trust but a private one as well.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will move this legislation in an expeditious manner.

COMMEMORATING THE RECENT SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA MIS- SION

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and commemorate the recent Space Shuttle Columbia mission. This is a historic event on many levels.

As many of you know, the Space Shuttle Columbia is the first shuttle mission being commanded by a woman. Eileen Collins, a U.S. Air Force colonel who became an astronaut in 1990, is leading this important mission. One of the mission objectives is to deploy one of the largest payloads ever, the Chandra Observatory. Ms. Collins is an experienced astronaut who has previously flown on two shuttle missions to the Russian space station Mir. Her experience and professionalism was a great asset to his mission.

The mission that the crew of Columbia undertook was a sizable task. At more than 45 feet in length and weighing more than 5 tons, the Chandra Observatory is one of the largest objects ever placed in Earth orbit by a space shuttle. Originally called the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility, the satellite was renamed the Chandra X-Ray Observatory in honor of the late Indian-American Nobel Laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, one of the foremost astrophysicists of the 20th century.

Chandra is designed to give scientists images of violent, high-energy activity in the universe where temperatures can reach millions of degrees and objects are accelerated to nearly the speed of light. The observatory will provide information on the nature of objects ranging from comets in our solar system to quasars at the edge of the observable universe. The goal is to understand the structure and evolution of the universe, such as the composition and location of so-called dark matter and the source of power driving explosions in distant galaxies. I also want to recognize TRW, the primary contractor of Chandra which is based in my district, which did a first-rate job on its construction of the observatory and seeing the project through with care.

Mr. Speaker, I also take this opportunity to send my best wishes to the students from the Steven White Middle School of Los Angeles. These students, who have an avid interest in space and science issues, were on hand to witness this historic launch. Working in conjunction with TRW, the students had a first-hand experience by getting a tour of the facility where Chandra was build and speaking to

engineers who worked on the project. I am happy they had the opportunity to go to Florida to witness the launch. I know it was an event they will always remember.

CONGRATULATING THE CHANDRA TEAM AT MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Chandra team at Marshall Space Flight Center for their role in the successful launch of NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory. When Chandra reaches its planned orbit in about three weeks, and first turns its instruments to the far reaches of space, NASA will have opened a new and exciting chapter in space exploration and space science. From this chapter, America will reap new and exciting educational, intellectual, and quality-of-life benefits that are critical to our Nation's future.

Chandra is 20 times more sensitive than any previous X-ray telescope, and together with NASA's other Great Observatories already in orbit—the Hubble Telescope for studying objects in space using visible light, and the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory for detecting mysterious gamma rays—this X-ray observatory will give us the most complete picture ever of our universe.

At the heart of Chandra are eight of the largest and smoothest mirrors of their kind ever created. Together, the assembled mirrors weigh more than a ton, and if the State of Colorado were polished to the same degree of smoothness that went into the manufacture of these mirrors, Pike's Peak would stand less than one inch tall. High-resolution cameras and other sensors complete the suite of hardware aboard the observatory, critical components of which have been exhaustively tested at Marshall Space Flight Center by the talented people of North Alabama. The technology and manufacturing expertise that went into constructing these instruments is no less riveting than the scientific observations that Chandra will make.

Just in building, launching, and operating the Chandra X-ray Observatory, we have added much to our store of knowledge about optics, engineering and design. What science will we learn when Chandra begins to open its X-ray eyes to space? Scientists stand to make fundamental advances in our understanding of many of the most puzzling features of the universe: black holes and quasars, the identity of "dark matter," and the very age of the universe itself. By looking deep into the hottest, most violent parts of the cosmos—providing us with a laboratory that could never be reproduced here on Earth—Chandra will reveal an entire new level of detail in the far reaches of space, and will take our minds where our feet may never have a chance to tread.

Mr. Speaker, I share pride in Chandra's launch and the excitement of discoveries yet to come with my friends and neighbors in North Alabama, with NASA, and with my colleagues in the House.

IN HONOR OF MR. JESSE LIM

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize a wonderful American, Mr. Jesse Lim, for his inspiration as a dedicated father and grandfather, hard-working businessman, and a model citizen of our great nation.

The third son in a family with seven children, he was born and raised in Toisan, China in 1921. He was fortunate to attend school in China. Jesse came to the United States in 1938, unable to speak a word of English. After being detained at Angel Island he joined his father and brother in Tucson, Arizona. Through hard work and determination and with the help of a wonderful teacher, Miss Marshall, Jesse was able to master the English language.

He met Mary Parker Lee in Tucson. They fell in love but delayed marriage because he was drafted into the United States Army during World War II. He rose to the rank of Sergeant. After the war, Jesse and Mary wed in 1946. They have three daughters: Jessica, Jennifer, and Janet.

Jesse and Mary so valued education that they made sure their children studied hard. They all did well in school, and all three attended Universities: Occidental College, the University of Arizona, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Jesse and Mary had to work hard to provide for their family. Though Jesse was an educated man, he was also of Chinese heritage. Like so many in this country, he faced discrimination. There were few avenues a smart, handsome man could pursue, but with his beautiful and business-savvy wife, they built up a number of small businesses, most of them "mon and pop" grocery stores. Their first store was in Tucson, and they had several others after the family moved to Los Angeles, California.

As food is very important to Chinese families, Jesse and Mary made sure their family would never go hungry. By owning grocery stores, there would always be plenty to eat. To make ends meet, the Lim family at times live in the store. As the daughters grew older, they also worked in the store—cashiering, stocking shelves, and slicing bologna and cheese . . . learning the value of hard work.

But Jesse and Mary didn't just work all the time—although it was usually 364 days a year (the store was closed on Christmas). They made sure the family had some fun too. Every Sunday, they would go to Westlake Park, later re-named MacArthur Park or the Merry-Go-Round. They would eat homemade tuna sandwiches made with mayonnaise and sweet pickle relish. But they could never go to Griffith Park because the family car couldn't get up the hill. They would also get together with relatives where the adults would play mah jongh while the kids would watch TV. When the kids got old enough to drive, they would go bowling or do other recreational activities.

Jesse and Mary kept on working. In addition to grocery stores, they once owned a motel in Pasadena, California. They also owned a small restaurant/coffee shop in both Beverly Hills and the City of Orange.

Jesse and Mary were very loving parents. Jesse taught the kids how to swim and how to drive. But he couldn't teach Mary either one. She had to take private driving lessons before she could chauffeur the kids around.

Jesse and Mary were devoted grandparents as well. They were "Gung-Gung and Poh-Poh" to William, Ralph, Jesse, and Erin.

Jesse and Mary were also very conscious of helping the community. They loved the Lim Family Association. They made sure their kids, and later the grandkids, would go to the annual Chinese New Year banquet in Los Angeles, Chinatown and become part of the Association activities. Jesse led the campaign to raise funds which resulted in the Lim Family Association buying its own building in Los Angeles. Jesse served as the President of the Association while Mary served as English Secretary.

Jesse is admired by his friends and family, especially his fellow Lims. Jesse likes to talk, and he is fluent in Toisanese, Cantonese, and English. He is also a very funny guy. He has always been in high demand to serve as emcee on various occasions—birthdays, weddings, baby parties. At most Chinese banquets, everyone talks, and no one listens to the emcee, but Jesse could command the room. When Jesse talked, people listened. You could hear a pin drop. With a quick wit and a vibrant personality, he became known as the Chinese "Bob Hope." Unfortunately, his daughters couldn't always understand the intricacy of his jokes in Chinese, but the audiences always roared with laughter.

As Jesse and Mary grew older, they became active in senior citizens organizations, both in California and later in Tucson. Jesse, always the handyman, would buy things at the thrift store, fix them up, and give them to the senior centers.

One of the things Jesse is most well known for is his sense of duty and responsibility. When he married Mary, he became the man of the family, because Mary's brother Jimmy had died in service to our country during WW II. He became the father to Mary's sisters May, Ruth, Margaret, and Elsie. After his brother Roy passed away, and his sister Sophie's husband passed away, he became the patriarch of the family. He is "Uncle Jesse" to many, both blood relative or not.

After 49 years of marriage, Jesse had to say farewell to his beloved Mary on May 21, 1995. But with the support of his family and friends, he has survived.

On Saturday, July 31, 1999, there will be a dinner in Tucson, Arizona to pay tribute to Jesse and to celebrate his life. A large delegation from the Lim Family Association in Los Angeles will be among the crowd of 150.

It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional human being.

RUSSIA'S LEADERS SHOULD EMBRACE AND ENCOURAGE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, as Russia prepares for Parliamentary and Presidential elections, there are alarming signals that the

Kremlin is cracking down on privately owned news outlets who have been critical of government policies. In particular, I understand that the independent and highly regarded television station, NTV, has been pressured by officials who are displeased with its news coverage of the Kremlin. There are reports that the owners and reporters of NTV and other news organizations have been harassed, and that government agencies have threatened to deny operating licenses to these organizations, have attacked private media companies through state-owned media, and have issued veiled threats to nationalize NTV and other private media outlets.

Such activities undermine Russia's free and democratic nature. I find particularly disturbing reports that Yeltsin Administration head Alexander Voloshin has asked his staff to find any grounds possible by which to initiate criminal action against owners of private media enterprises. The most notable example is Mr. Voloshin's order to the Director of the Tax Police Federal Service to carry out inspections of the editorial offices of media outlets owned by Media Most, the largest privately owned media company in Russia, headed by Vladimir Goussinsky. The fact that Mr. Goussinsky has consistently submitted tax returns and paid all taxes required by current law since 1992 was apparently insufficient in stopping these egregious searches.

Free press may also be threatened on another front. In July, 1999, the government established a new Ministry for Publishing, TV and Radio with the task, according to Prime Minister Stepashin, of "consolidating" the government's "ideological work." This new ministry will have vast powers to oversee and control news content and other aspects of Russian media, including publishing, licensing regulations, advertising, satellite broadcasting, and press distribution. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely concerned about the possible effects that this new Ministry's policies might have on private and independent media outlets.

Whoever controls the media in Russia may well influence the outcome of the upcoming presidential elections. It is generally accepted that favorable television coverage of President Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign made possible his ultimate success at the polls. In a democratic society, the diversity of opinion and variety of information that is fostered by a free and independent press is an important part of the political process. The subversion of independent media, especially at this critical juncture in the Russian political process, is disturbing.

If Russia's nascent democratic system is to succeed, freedom of the press must be preserved. I call on President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Stepashin to ensure that attacks on privately owned media are curtailed, and to publicly reinforce the government's favorable opinion toward freedom of the press in Russia.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2587) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the fiscal year 2000 District of Columbia Appropriations Bill. This legislation is a well crafted bill that supports initiatives which reduce crime as well as promote educational opportunities for District residents. The bill makes these significant improvements at a cost to federal taxpayers \$230.6 million less than last year's bill. In addition, the bill continues current prohibitions on the use of these federal funds for abortions and needle exchanges.

I opposed several amendments which restrict the use of local funds or write local law. While these amendments are well intentioned and would be appropriately considered by this Congress in regard to federal law or the use of federal funds, Congress should not write local laws. We Texans don't want Congress making our local laws, and I respect the right of the City of Washington to decide their local laws, whether we agree with them or not. One of the foundations of our liberty is our federal system which divides responsibility between federal, state and local authorities. I believe we must respect constitutional divisions and focus on federal responsibilities. The fact that I object to these local decisions is not the issue.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL RAILROAD SAFETY ENHANCE- MENT ACT

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 1999. This bill is unique in two ways: it is premised on zero tolerance for railroad accidents and injuries, and it is supported by all of rail labor.

Railway accidents have caused people in my district to suffer tragically. Several approaches to rail safety will be considered and it is important that the voices of all concerned parties be heard. The Federal Railroad Safety Enhancement Act is an approach that has been crafted by a coordinated effort of the many unions representing railway workers. We must pay heed to the workers who operate and maintain our rail system, just as we must pay heed to rail management and federal authorities that oversee our railways. We must keep an open mind as we examine all proposals so that we can pass legislation that best address this urgent matter.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few years, the railroad industry has achieved a reduction in the number of fatalities and in the number of certain types of accidents, such as collisions and grade-crossing accidents. But the number of derailments and employee fatalities has remained almost unchanged, and some key safety issues have not been adequately addressed.

For example, it is clear that in rail transportation, as in other modes of transportation,

tired workers with insufficient rest present serious safety and health problems that must be addressed. While some individual rail unions continue to evaluate this issue in craft-specific needs, we do know with respect to hours of service and fatigue management that there are a number of loopholes in current regulations that must be closed, and updates that must be made, to the current regime.

Mr. Speaker, whether it is these issues or others such as certification, van crew safety, passenger safety service standards, etc., the fact of the matter is that current rail laws do not adequately address rail safety.

The bill I am introducing today is one approach that would go a long way in achieving new levels of safety in the rail industry. We must carefully consider all approaches to rail safety, but if the "Federal Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 1999" is the most we can do at this time to reach that goal, then it is the very least we must do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge members to join in support of this important piece of legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPOKANE TRIBE SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce The Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Equitable Compensation Act. This legislation will provide for a settlement of the claims of the Spokane Tribe of Indians resulting from its contribution to the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam. Similar settlement legislation was enacted in 1994 to compensate the neighboring Confederated Colville Tribes. That Act, P.L. 103-436, provided for a \$53 million lump sum payment for past damages and roughly \$15 million annually from the ongoing proceeds from the sale of hydropower by the Bonneville Power Administration to the Colville Tribes. The Spokane Tribe Settlement Act, which I am introducing today, provides for a settlement of the Spokane Tribe of Indians claims directly proportional to the settlement afforded the Colville Tribes based upon the percentage of lands appropriated from the respective tribes for the Grand Coulee Project, or approximately 39.4 percent of the past and future compensation awarded the Colville Tribes.

Although the Department of the Interior and other federal officials were well aware of the flooding of Indian trust lands and other severe impacts the Grand Coulee Project would have on the fishery and other critical resources of the Spokane and Colville Tribes, no mention was made of these impacts or the need to compensate the Tribes in either the 1933 or 1935 authorizations. Federal interdepartmental and interoffice correspondence from September 1933 through October 1934 demonstrate the government knew the Colville and Spokane Tribes should be compensated for the flooding of their lands, destruction of their fishery and other resources, destruction of their property and annual compensation from power production for the use of the Tribes' land and water resources contributing to power production.

Congress passed legislation in 1940 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate whichever Indian lands he deemed necessary for Grand Coulee construction and to receive all rights, title and interest the Indians has in them in return for his appraisal of its value and payment of compensation by the Secretary. The only land that was appraised and compensated for was the newly flooded lands for which the Spokane Tribe received \$4,700. There is no evidence that the Department advised or that Congress knew that the Tribes' water rights were not extinguished. Nor had the Indian title and trust status of the Tribal land underlying the river beds been extinguished. No compensation was included for the power value contributed by the use of the Tribal resources nor the loss of the Tribal fisheries or other damages to tribal resources.

In a 1976 opinion, Lawrence Aschenbrenner, Acting Associate Solicitor with the Department of the Interior's Division of Indian Affairs, stated, "The 1940 act followed seven years of construction during which farm lands, and timber lands were flooded, and a fishery destroyed, and during which Congress was silent as to the Indian interests affected by the construction. Both the Congress and the Department of the Interior appeared to proceed with the Grand Coulee project as if there were no Indians involved there . . . It is our conclusion that the location of the dams on tribal land and the use of the water for power production, without compensation, violated the Government's fiduciary duty toward the Tribes."

The Colville settlement legislation of 1994 ratified a settlement agreement reached between the United States and the Colville Tribes to settle the claims of the Tribes to a share of the hydropower revenues from the Grand Coulee Dam. This claim was among the claims which the Colville Tribes filed with the Indian Claims Commission (ICC) under the Act of August 13, 1946. This Act provided for a five year statute of limitations to file claims before the Commission. While the Colville Tribes had been formally organized for over 15 years at this point, the Spokane Tribe did not formally organize until 16 days prior to the ICC statute of limitations deadline. In addition, evidence indicates that while the Bureau of Indian Affairs was aware of the potential claims of the Spokane Tribe, it does not appear that the Tribe was ever advised of the potential claim.

Since the mid-1970's, both Congress and Federal agencies have expressed the view that both the Colville and Spokane Tribes should be compensated. The legislation I am introducing today will provide for compensation to the Spokane Tribe. There is ample precedent for such settlement legislation that addresses the meritorious claims of a tribe and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING AMERICA'S HEROS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, early this month I had the privilege of presenting military

medals to several of my constituents—a recognition which was long overdue.

Julian Burnside was serving in the U.S. Army's 106th Infantry Division when he was captured by German Nazis during the Battle of the Bulge. He spent 10 days squeezed into a railroad boxcar with other U.S. soldiers. The conditions were so bad that the men had to keep their legs folded and were only fed 4 of the 10 days.

Julian was eventually taken to a prisoner-of-war camp near Dresden, Germany. While there, he was forced to pull bodies from piles of burned human remains and dig holes for their burials. During his captivity he suffered from frozen feet, malnutrition, dysentery and yellow jaundice.

On May 9, 1945, Julian was freed when his German captors surrendered to the Allies. He spent months recovering in a hospital before being discharged in October 1945. While in the hospital, someone told Julian about all of the medals that he was eligible to receive, including the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit, commonly called the "Purple Heart." An officer then told him that they were no longer giving the Purple Heart for injuries like his. Julian didn't care. He was just happy to be free.

But heros like Julian Burnside should never be forgotten, and on July 3, 1999, I was honored to present Julian with both the Purple Heart and the POW medal. The Order of the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy. It is a combat decoration.

The POW medal may be awarded to anyone who "was taken prisoner and held captive while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party."

The front of the circular medal features a golden eagle standing with its wings outspread against a lighter gold background, ringed by barbed wire and bayonet points. Although symbolically imprisoned, the American eagle is alert to regain freedom, the hope that upholds the prisoner's spirit. On the reverse side of the medal, there is the inscription: "For Honorable Service While A Prisoner of War."

Another American hero who should not be forgotten is Luis Reyes. Luis was also in the U.S. Army Infantry, but he served during the Korean War from August 1950 until August 1951. He was wounded in the Injim River area during the War and suffered a bullet wound in his leg. On July 3, I presented him with the Purple Heart for wounds received in action against an armed enemy.

That day, I was also honored to present the POW/MIA medal to the family of a third Army veteran, Lowell Pirkle. Lowell was killed while working for Air America in Vietnam in 1967. During his lifetime, he received two Purple Hearts, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Lowell, who served two tours in Vietnam, was attempting to load wounded Laotian soldiers into a helicopter when the aircraft was hit by a rifle shell and exploded. The pilot and co-pilot escaped. Lowell and a Laotian soldier

were not so lucky. His body was not recovered.

Lowell was survived by his wife, Deborah, and two children, Robin and Scott. Lowell's family and the Air America Association pressed the federal government for information about Lowell after discovering he had never been listed among those missing in action.

The crash site was discovered in 1995, and Lowell's remains were identified by the U.S. Army in January 1998. On August 3, 1998—thirty-one years to the day after being shot down—Lowell was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery.

The POW/MIA medal depicts a bald eagle, which symbolizes all unaccounted for Americans, amidst the bamboo of a Southeast Asian jungle. The eagle retains the American spirit of freedom in its vigilant stance. On the reverse side is a representation of the Vietnam Campaign Medal lying on a table, issued, but not yet claimed by its owner. The words, "You Are Not Forgotten" reflect the sentiment of family, loved ones, and all Americans waiting their return.

Mr. Speaker, Julian, Luis and Lowell all answered the call to duty when their country needed them. They are true American heros.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED SERVICE BY MR. ROBERT TOBIAS

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today to salute a great American, Mr. Robert Tobias, the retiring president of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU).

Mr. Tobias' career at NTEU spans thirty busy years including the last sixteen as the union's president. As he led the fight on behalf of federal employees, he became a leading authority on these issues. In doing so he vastly expanded NTEU's influence in the halls of Congress and in the White House.

His accomplishments and memberships are an impressive collection of who's who and where's where. His memberships include President Clinton's National Partnership Council, the Executive Committee of the Internal Revenue Service, the American Arbitration Association board of directors and the Federal Salary Council that advises the President of the United States. He is the co-founder of the Federal Employee Education and Assistance fund and in 1996 was appointed by the President to the Federal Salary Council.

While this is an impressive listing of Mr. Tobias' commitments and involvements, I believe his lasting legacy will be the great contributions he helped achieve on behalf of America's federal employees.

Developing the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), restructuring the IRS, protecting the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan, advocating the closure of the pay

gap for federal employees, reforming the Hatch Act, securing the right to initiate mid-term bargaining and to engage in informational picketing are all significant achievements with long lasting effects.

These actions will continue to directly impact America's working people and their families and the people they serve for years and years to come. The impact of these actions cannot be overstated.

Like many of his friends, I will miss Mr. Tobias' visionary leadership, his strong support and his hard work at NTEU. The union, its membership, the vast federal workforce and indeed this Congress are all the better for his stewardship at NTEU.

I thank Robert Tobias for his dedication and his efforts on behalf of America's federal employees and wish him the very best of luck.

NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE ACT OF 1999

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week the President signed H.R. 4, the National Missile Defense Act of 1999, into law. This measure unequivocally states that it is the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense system as soon as it is technologically feasible. In signing the bill, the President has at long last acknowledged that the missile threat that he has so long denied, and the need to defend against it.

Mr. Speaker, there was no signing ceremony, no fanfare, not even a press conference announcing this significant action. Unfortunately, there is a reason the President chose to downplay this event. In characteristic style, he is already trying to redefine the meaning of this law. The ink on the bill was not dry when the President released a statement noting that the "legislation makes clear that no decision on deployment has been made. . . . Next year, we will, for the first time, determine whether to deploy a limited national missile defense. . . ." This is Orwellian. The President signs a bill that says that it is our policy to deploy a national missile defense, and in the same breath says that a decision to deploy will be made next year. It would be comical if the stakes were not so high.

I guess we should not be surprised anymore. The President has already successfully redefined the word "is," and once again it provides him with a convenient escape hatch. Perhaps we should have reconsidered the use of that word in our policy statement before submitting it to the President, because he has already made it clear that to him, "is" does not always mean "is." But most people understand that when we say it is the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense, that the decision to deploy has been made. The question is not whether to deploy, only when. And contrary to the President's interpretation, Congress was clear on this point.

Before the House voted on this measure, both the original bill and the conference report, I called on my colleagues to vote against this bill if they agreed with the President that we should hold off the decision on whether to de-

ploy, and told those who agreed with moving forward with that decision now to vote for it. There was considerable discussion about whether we could deploy a system now. It was repeatedly noted that the bill was not mandating when to deploy, it was simply stating that the decision was being made to do so as soon as it is technologically feasible. Similar debate ensue in the Senate.

This time, the President says that Congress itself has qualified that it "is" the policy to deploy. He argues that the bill language subjecting deployment to the authorizations and appropriations process means that no decision has been made. That argument is a Trojan horse, because all policy decisions are subject to the authorization and appropriations process. He further argues that the bill's language supporting continued reductions in strategic nuclear arms means that the decision must account for arms control and nuclear non-proliferation objectives. Congress said nothing of the sort, and made absolutely no linkage of these objectives.

Mr. Speaker, no amount of tortured linguistics by this President or anyone else can change the legislative record. We were clear that passage of this bill would formalize U.S. policy to deploy a national missile defense system, and it was overwhelmingly adopted in both bodies. It is time for the President to stop rewriting the dictionary, and get down to the business of executing the law and ensuring the security of this nation.

THE RETIREMENT OF DDO JACK DOWNING

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the contributions of Jack Downing, CIA's Deputy Director of Operations, or DDO, to the security and well-being of this Nation. Just this once, on the occasion of Jack's retirement on 31 July, I want to bring this remarkable man, our Nation's "head spy," out of the shadows and into the spotlight of this forum.

Barely 2 years ago, Jack was pulled out of an earlier retirement from CIA to take over its directorate of operations, or DO, at a time when the morale, sense of mission, and strength of the DO had been sapped by careerism, corridor politics, and lack of leadership. At that time, I knew only two things about Jack: first, he couldn't be a careerist because he had already retired once. Second, he couldn't be a "corridor cowboy" back in Washington because he had spend almost all of his legendary career in the field where case officers belong. Jack, in fact, was our chief of station on the very front lines of the cold war.

What I did not know at the time, and what now causes me to offer this tribute, is the leadership that Jack would bring to the DO and to its officers. In two short years, Jack has refocused the DO on its core capability: the clandestine collection of intelligence. Under Jack, DO officers have found ways to penetrate terrorist cells, to get inside the cabinet rooms of rogue states, and to detect and disrupt the movement of narcotics. Under Jack, the DO has been put in a position to collect

intelligence on whatever threats and challenges come our way in the next century.

Jack's leadership, however, is more than these accomplishments. In the unique, often peculiar, business of espionage, the DDO is more than someone who directs the operations of the DO; for young officers, particularly, the DDO is a role model in the clandestine service. And the DO, in my opinion, has never had a better role model than Jack Downing.

As chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, I visit stations overseas and talk with the young officers who hop fences, slip down alleys, and take real risks to collect the intelligence we need back here in Washington.

Over the past 2 years, the change I have seen in these young officers overseas has been extraordinary. Where there used to be malaise is now a sense of mission. Where there used to be risk aversion is now a feeling of confidence. Perhaps the most telling change under Jack Downing, and most central to the character of this former marine, is that his troops at risk in the field know that he will stand behind them when things go wrong.

I can offer no higher tribute than what Jack's own troops think of him. I commend this man for what he is and what he has done. Our country is and will be a better place because of him.

Godspeed, to Jack Downing, you are "the right stuff" and have served us well.

DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT- MENT TO PRODUCTS OF PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of extending normal trade relations status to China for another year. I oppose this resolution and call upon my colleagues to vote against it.

As events over the past week have shown, the human rights situation in China needs to improve. Increased respect for human rights must be accompanied by political and democratic reforms. But let us not forget that our own country's record on certain human rights issues is less than perfect, as has been noted by such organizations as Amnesty International. Over 1.8 million Americans are in jail, most of them for non-violent crimes and many of them—and this is not an accident—coming from our country's worst schools. Given our own record, we should avoid hypocrisy in our insistent demands for reform in China.

Rather, we should be pragmatic in our efforts and pursue a productive engagement with Chinese society. The only way we can convey our values to other countries is to have a presence there, and to let them see who we are and how we succeed in having a better life. That means that along the way we must also raise our own country's standards and expectations so that we can show by example.

Entering the next century, the United States is experiencing a remarkable economic boom. However, as we work to maintain our technological leadership and the growth of 21st century jobs, we should also keep in mind the

jobs lost to many of those at the lowest end of the economic spectrum. We must do much more to assist those who need skills and training in order to get new, better-paying jobs, and we must ensure full and real opportunities for all the children in our country. That is central to our task so that we can be a beacon to China and the world and use our policy of engagement to its fullest.

The question before us today is what are the best and most appropriate means to achieve our goals. The most effective way to bring about improvements in human rights and political and religious freedoms in China is through continued engagement with the Chinese government and increased contacts with the Chinese people about our way of life. Withdrawal and ceasing to do business with China by removal of NTR status will harm, not improve, the situation.

We must also remember that history has shown that using trade as a weapon can work only if there is a consensus among our trading partners that we will work collectively and apply similar policies. I led the fight on trade with South Africa, but the effectiveness of that effort depended on the participation of numerous other countries. By contrast, in the case of our embargo against Cuba, we stand alone. The failure of this outdated and misguided policy has proven that our unilateral trade sanctions do nothing to advance our objectives and only give our foreign competitors an advantage.

Too many other countries are ready and willing to fill the vacuum we would leave in the huge Chinese market as a consequence of withdrawal of NTR status. We would merely lose exports and the jobs they create. As also shown by our experience with Cuba, punishing a country through trade does not help the cause of democracy or promote fundamental freedoms. Isolationist policies do not promote the free exchange of ideas. Isolationist policies do not bring leaders to the negotiating table. What isolationist policies do is further separate people.

We should also not forget that the benefits of trade—of engaging fully in the global marketplace, including through trade with China—are considerable for our country. Jobs supported by exports pay 13 percent more than the average U.S. job, and the number of export-related jobs in the U.S. grew four times faster than overall private job growth from 1986–1994. U.S. exports to China have almost tripled since 1990, increasing steadily in nearly every year, and trade with China supports over 200,000 export-related jobs. Market access provisions in a WTO accession agreement with China would further open Chinese markets to U.S. products and services.

The United States must not withdraw from the world economy of the next century—a world economy that will be built increasingly on trade, trade and more trade. Our country's economic future will largely rest on educating and training our young people for the world economy of the 21st century—not by turning away from the reality of trade's benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote no to this resolution. Continuing dialogue and interchange with China, I truly believe, is the more rationale and better course of action than terminating the discussion.

INTRODUCTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST AND INTEGRITY ACT OF 1999

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act of 1999, along with additional cosponsors. This legislation adopts a new approach to the dilemma of police misconduct. Rather than focusing on episodic incidents, this legislation targets hiring and management protocols much farther up the chain of causation that can stop incidents of misconduct long before they occur. Moreover, this bill focuses on the long-term improvement of the law enforcement profession. Further, it strengthens our federal prosecutorial tools with demonstrated effectiveness at sanctioning misconduct. This bill seizes upon the opportunity to initiate reforms that would restore public trust and accountability to law enforcement.

This legislation provides a direct contrast to other proposals that merely provide, without any selection criteria or performance benchmarks, a select number of police organizations more money—proposals which have been widely criticized by the Administration, civil rights group and even law enforcement organizations.

Our bill makes seven concrete steps toward improving law enforcement management and misconduct prosecution tools and has the support of a broad range of groups, from the NAACP to the Southern States Police Benevolent Association:

1. Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies—The bill requires the Justice Department to recommend additional areas for the development of national standards for accreditation of law enforcement agencies in conjunction with professional law enforcement accreditation organizations, principally the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies ("CALEA"). The bill further authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of obtaining accreditation from CALEA.

2. Law Enforcement Agency Development Programs—The bill authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to States, units of local government, Indian Tribal Governments, or other public and private entities, and multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia to study law enforcement agency operations and to develop pilot programs focused on effective training, recruitment, hiring, management and oversight of law enforcement officers which would provide focused data for the CALEA standards promulgation process.

3. Administrative Due Process Procedures—The bill requires the Attorney General to study the prevalence and impact of any law, rule or procedure that allows a law enforcement officer to delay for an unreasonable or arbitrary period of time the answer to questions posed by a local internal affairs officer, prosecutor, or review board on the investigative integrity and prosecution of law enforcement misconduct.

4. Enhanced Funding of Civil Rights Division—The bill authorizes appropriations for expenses related to the enforcement against pattern and practice discrimination described in section 20401 of the Violent Crime Control

and Law Enforcement Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 14141) and authorizes appropriations for expenses related to programs managed by the Community Relations Service.

5. Enhanced Authority in Pattern and Practice Investigations—The bill amends section 21041 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.A. 14141) to create a private cause of action for declaratory and injunctive relief relating to police pattern and practice discrimination.

6. Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law—The bill amends section 242 of Title 18 of the United States Code to expressly define excessive use of force and non-consensual sexual conduct as deprivations of rights under color of law.

7. Study of Deaths in Custody—The bill amends section 20101(b) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.A. 13701) to require assurances that States will follow guidelines established by the Attorney General for reporting deaths in custody.

Given the litany of incidents—Rodney King, Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima—it should now be clear to all members, and the nation at large, that this issue must be addressed in a bipartisan manner. Faced with such compelling evidence, we cannot recommend yet another study of problems that we all know to exist. The energies of Congress should be focused on the adoption of legislative priorities that address the substance of law enforcement management and strengthen the current battery of tools available to sanction misconduct.

As a Congress we have been enthusiastic about supporting programs designed to get officers on the street. We must be just as willing to support programs designed to train and manage them after they get there. The current national climate requires decisive action to implement solutions. This legislation initiates the reforms necessary to restore public trust and accountability to law enforcement.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. BASS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on the FY00 Defense Appropriations Act and to express my support for the Air Force's F-22.

I wish to commend the distinguished gentleman from California, Mr. LEWIS, for producing a bill that addresses the serious and evolving challenges facing our military. Under his guidance, the Subcommittee has worked very hard to promote our national security within a constrained budget, and I believe the bill before us goes a long way toward addressing many of our most urgent military requirements.

I am, however, troubled by the Subcommittee's recommendation to cut \$1.8 billion from

the F-22 program. I certainly appreciate the Subcommittee's concerns about the program and am fully aware of the substantial challenges it faced as it sought to reconcile military requirements with available resources. Nevertheless, I believe that the F-22 remains critical to maintaining the air superiority that has proven invaluable to the United States to date and will continue to be fundamental requirement in the future if our interests are to be protected. Indeed, the F-22 program is the Air Force's number one priority.

Mr. Chairman, although I support the bill before us on the whole, I look forward to working with the Subcommittee Chairman and other members of the Committee to ensure that the F-22 is fully funded in the final bill.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT PLAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague ALBERT WYNN (D-MD) on behalf of the citizens of the United States and their requests for a much-needed Medicare prescription drug benefit plan.

Some of the greatest financial difficulties faced by seniors today come as a result of increasingly exorbitant medication prices. As the price of prescription drugs continue to rise, access to these vital drugs decrease concurrently.

Just this week, we received the following petition from the Homecrest House Resident Council of Silver Spring, Maryland. This petition was sent to various members of Congress as well as President Clinton urging us to work together for the institution of a Medicare prescription drug benefit plan. Close to 300 of the residents signed this letter which stretches some seven feet long. It is an urgent plea that not only lays out their own concerns, but also those of seniors nationwide who are constantly restricted financially from obtaining vital prescription drugs.

The petition notes that decreased access to vital medications only contributes to prolonged illness and more frequent hospitalization, which subsequently increases the government's costs of caring for these elderly and disabled citizens.

We ask our colleagues to join with us today in protecting our seniors and in aiding them in gaining access to the prescription drugs to which they are entitled. This petition is yet another visible example of the need for Congress to actively improve and protect the Medicare program. All seniors deserve access to prescription drug medications. It is our duty today to guarantee that access through prompt enactment of legislation that adds a prescription drug benefit to Medicare.

I am submitting a copy of the petition we received which clearly illustrates the Homecrest House residents' concerns and requests.

HOMECREST HOUSE
RESIDENT COUNCIL,
Silver Spring, MD, July 8, 1999.

Hon. PETER STARK,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: We are enclosing our petition signed by most of our 300 resident.

All acknowledgment would be greatly appreciated.

We are sure that we voice a concern of our friends around the nation, seniors and disabled, who do without other necessities in order to buy need medications.

We are confident that you will help us and that you and your party will get our vote, because you recognize how critically important it is to make prescription drugs more affordable for senior and disabled persons. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA BENSON,
President.

MARY RYGLER,
Chair, Community Affairs Committee.

Enclosure.

Copies of this petition have been either hand-delivered or mailed to President Clinton as well as several legislators.

As Members of Congress, you hold in your hands the future quality of life of retired and disabled Americans, most of whom worked hard all their long lives and contributed to the greatness of our beloved country!

The 300 Residents of a retirement community in Silver Spring, Maryland who signed this petition, reflect the strivings of most elderly and disabled Americans all over the country!

We are sending to you our urgent plea to address the most vital problem affecting our segment of population and that is the skyrocketing cost of prescription drug!

The fact that many vital medications are out of financial reach of most seniors and disabled contributes to the misery of prolonged illness and more frequent hospitalization, which—in turn—increases the government cost of caring for millions of elderly and disabled.

Please keep in mind that we, seniors, take full advantage of the privilege of voting.

TAX RELIEF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues in the Senate for moving forward with a companion measure to the substantial tax relief and debt reduction contained in the Financial Freedom Act of 1999 that this chamber approved last week.

As we move towards a conference with the Senate, I want to urge my colleagues to continue to maintain the high priority we assigned to debt reduction.

When I am back in Ohio's 7th district, my constituents ask me to make sure Congress is paying off its debts, the same way they have to make their credit card and mortgage payments.

I agree with this approach, which will help ensure that we meet our future obligations while reducing the burden the debt represents for our children and grandchildren.

We made the right decision this year, when Congress set aside two-thirds of the surplus

for Social Security and Medicare. This will help keep Social Security and Medicare solvent for the long-term.

Congress also pledged to pay down the national debt. This is a good step—we can put money back into the hands of taxpayers and maintain our fiscal responsibility.

I was very supportive of the "trigger" mechanism which was included in the Financial Freedom Act to make sure that our debt reduction plans remain on track. I urge my colleagues to insist this sensible and responsible provision remains a key priority during our negotiations with the Senate to produce a final tax relief and debt reduction measure.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday 27, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2605) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2605, the FY 2000 Energy and Water Appropriations Act. This \$20 billion bill provides crucial funding to operate the Department of Energy (\$15 billion), which includes funding for renewable energy research; the Bureau of Reclamation (\$784 million); and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) (\$4.2 billion), which builds flood control projects, including \$999,000 to build dune systems and horseshoe crab habitat along Delaware's fragile coastline. The ACOE is also responsible for keeping navigation channels clear, including the Delaware River channel. H.R. 2605 fully funds President Clinton's budget request for \$16.5 million to deepen the Delaware River shipping channel from 40 feet to 45 feet—a project Congress approved in 1992. This funding compliments bipartisan support for \$2 million for this project in Delaware's 1999 bond bill and other funding assistance from New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

I have spent a considerable amount of time researching this project over the last year after concerns about its environmental impacts were brought to my attention. I have reserved judgment on this project until I was satisfied that these concerns had been addressed. I would like to take this opportunity to share with this body some of the conclusions from my research and advocate a course of action for how this project should proceed.

One of the primary environmental issues that have been raised about the project is the impact of the project on water quality standards. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) analyzed ACOE's soil samples and discovered higher concentrations of heavy metals, which I term "hot spots," at two bends in the river. One is located at the confluence of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers and will not be dredged as part of the project. The second spot is located north of Pea Patch Island. DNREC calculates that if this spot is

dredged properly, water quality standards will not be violated. DNREC and ACOE are coordinating to make sure this spot is properly dredged and disposed at the Killcreek site, where it will be confined and monitored.

I have also raised concerns about the potential impacts of this project on the rate of erosion at Pea Patch Island, which threatens the structural soundness of one of Delaware's historic jewels—Fort Delaware. I have been a strong advocate of providing federal funds to repair the seawall protecting the island. In FY 1999, Congress provided \$750,000 toward the repairs, and the ACOE has assured me the repairs will be made prior to the Delaware River Deepening Project.

It is worth noting that ACOE is not alone in its determination that this project will have no significant impacts on the environment. The state environmental agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have examined the record and independent reports others have produced and they concur with ACOE's conclusion. Combined together, these agencies, which have the proper expertise and authority to evaluate the impacts, present a compelling case. Therefore, I would find it difficult to disagree with their conclusion. Should DNREC or another agency determine that Delaware would suffer unjustifiable environmental impacts, I would be pleased to reexamine this issue.

Finally, the ACOE figures underestimate the benefits to Delaware and the region, because ACOE's regulations prohibit them from taking into account business that ports along the Delaware River may take from other ports in the country. In fact, the Port of Wilmington is taking steps to compete for more business through its recent proposal to move its berth from the Christina River to the Delaware River. Even without this move, ACOE estimates that Delaware will gain over 300 jobs and \$3.4 million in annual tax revenue. Other benefits to Delaware include \$78 million in clean sand material that will be used for creation of wetlands at Kelly Island and Port Mahon. Furthermore, sand deposits placed along Delaware Bay beaches, such as Broadkill will provide storm damage protection against potential annual damages of \$1.6 million each year. All these benefits are attributed to Delaware and Delaware's share of the cost is only \$7 to \$10 million. With estimated tax revenue increases from the project of \$3.4 million a year, Delaware should recoup its cost in less than three years.

I have given the Delaware River Deepening Project close scrutiny. Given the conservative reputation of the ACOE's economic figures, the overwhelming benefits of the project both to the region and to Delaware, the progress in protecting Pea Patch Island, the special attention being given to proper dredging and disposal of the "hot spot," and the overwhelming conformity of opinion by the appropriate environmental agencies, I am satisfied that the economic and environmental justification is strong enough to move forward with funding the project in FY 2000. I also believe Delawareans should be given a strong voice in the future implementation of this project, particularly with the design and construction of the dredge disposal sites. Therefore, I am prepared to contact ACOE and the Environmental Protection Agency to encourage them to accommodate more public input into the process.

Mr. Speaker, ACOE and the Environmental Protection Agency have expressed a willingness to work closer with citizen groups in actively informing them about the progress of the Delaware River Deepening Project to prevent misunderstandings. Although all the interested parties will not always agree on the correct course of action, each one plays a role that is essential to our democratic process and produces a better product in the end.

As with all long-term government projects, the Delaware River Deepening Project must be monitored to maintain cost controls and compliance with environmental safeguards. I look forward to working with the House Transportation and Appropriations Committees in their oversight of this project.

TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by a high school student from my home State of Vermont, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of this young person will benefit my colleagues.

[June, 1999]

REGARDING: THE WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA

(On behalf of: Brendan Hurlbut and Anthony Blair)

Anthony Blair: American involvement in the war in Yugoslavia is morally defensible on one level: It is the right thing to do to stop atrocities. But are there not other options for America than to conduct a war against Yugoslavia in which many innocent civilians and American soldiers may be killed? Is it America's duty to be a police force all around the world, even when an action is morally right? Do we want America to be playing the role of international policeman all over the world?

Many reasons have been put forward as to why the United States should avoid being the world's police force in Kosovo. There are reasons, such as the cost. We are spending tens of million of dollars a day. The United States is carrying out about 90 percent of the bombings, while our other allies should be carrying a heavier load than they are carrying right now. Numbers of civilians are being killed by misguided cruise missiles, hitting large groups of innocent people instead of their targeted locations.

Brendan Hurlbut: The U.S. has few strategic or economic interests in Yugoslavia.

And are we really willing to damage our long-term relations with Russia over this issue? Communist and Russian nationalist groups are gaining support for their anti-American message due to this war. Hostile anti-American groups may be aided in their efforts to gain control of Russia due to this war. The threat of force did not stop Milosevic. In fact, some say it has strengthened his position among the patriotic people of Serbia.

Morally, our actions in Yugoslavia are right, but are they in the best interests of our country, and are we not in a way also committing atrocities against innocent people? Can't the U.S. find other ways to stop Milosevic? Obviously, the bombings have not

worked. The U.S. could declare Milosevic a war criminal and pay \$1 billion to whoever captures him. The captors could be also granted citizenship in any one of the NATO countries. This would save lives, money, and maybe a country from poverty.

Current U.S. policy is not consistent. We respond to atrocities in one nation, such as Yugoslavia, but ignore atrocities in other regions, such as Rwanda. If the U.S. now takes the role of worldwide policeman, the U.S. will have to respond to every tribal or ethnic war worldwide. Do we really want the U.S. to be like a puppet on a string that must respond to every problem around the world?

[June, 1999]

REGARDING: TOBACCO

(On behalf of: Andy Tyson, Carey Levine, Zach Pratt, Tina Reed and Doug Lane)

Carey Levine: People who smoke are at increased risk of heart disease, cancer, emphysema and other smoking-related illnesses that contribute to over 420,000 deaths per year. These people dying from cigarettes are our mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, colleagues, peers, and friends. Smoking is no longer just a problem, it is an epidemic that is expanding nationally and globally.

Zach Pratt: In the wake of the recent landmark tobacco settlement, which awarded \$206 billion over the course of the next 25 years to fund programs aimed at aiding smoking victims, debate regarding the most appropriate use of the funds has been fierce. The current proposals vary drastically by state.

According to a recent USA Today poll, popular opinion favors utilizing the appropriated money in an effort to improve public health care systems. Most Americans believe that the tobacco cash should be returned to those most affected by smoking and not split towards expanding health coverage for impoverished or uninsured families. The same poll reports that 27 percent of Americans would like to see the money spent on antismoking education. However, many governors would prefer to see the funds utilized in existing state education programs, feeling that the development of new programs would raise state expenditures to dangerous levels.

Doug Lane: I believe that the money would best be spent in educational programs. The risk of getting addicted to nicotine are reduced through a national educational program targeting preteenagers, and highlighting the negative effects of smoking. The money the government has obtained through cigarette taxes and lawsuits of tobacco companies should be used for preventative measures, to stop this addiction before it starts.

Recently, President Clinton has publicly announced that he is making it part of his agenda to reduce the amount of teenage smoking that goes on in America.

Tina Reed: The "Stop Teenage Addiction to Tobacco" on Oklahoma's Teenage Facts sheets states that, every day, 3,000 teens smoke their first cigarette, and approximately one-third of these children will eventually die due to smoking-related illness. These are serious enough statistics that they demand a more intensive and proactive stance from schools to encourage students not to smoke.

The new program would take a fresh new approach in informing students about the negative effects of smoking, through hands-on projects such as seeing a healthy lung compared to a smoker's lung, science projects breaking down the actual contents of the cigarette, and guest speakers. Through these types of activities, students will see the devastating effects of smoking

by guest speakers that have lived to regret ever taking a puff of a cigarette, and touching a lung that is black and distorted due to smoking.

Andy Tyson: There are many possibilities as to where the tobacco money can be spent.

The money could help everything, from preventative measures to improving health and funding education. The truth is, all of these are worthwhile causes. The only thing that we must be especially careful of is the possibility of spreading the money too thin.

Wherever this money goes, there must be enough of it to make a difference. Smoking should stop, and this is our opportunity to do so.

Congressman Sanders: Good job.